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THE TIMES

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Saddam criticised as desertions rise

Iraqis' morale wilts under allied onslaught

By Richard Beeston in an uncensored report from Amman after leaving Baghdad yesterday

THE morale of the Iraqi people, once taken for granted by a regime used to imposing its will, is showing the first signs of cracking, with widespread stories of desertion from the military and an unprecedented level of criticism against President Saddam Hussein in the capital.

Although the Iraqi authorities have attempted to portray the recent civilian losses from allied air attacks as a rallying point for support of the leadership, Iraqis speaking privately seem as angry with the state as they are with the coalition waging war against them.

Most Iraqis stopped on the street will recite the tired slogans of defiance churned out by the propaganda machine. In a series of more discreet interviews over the past week, however, a very different message is coming across from the old and young, the rich and poor.

One young man, who has just received his call-up papers, described the day he will begin his military service as the "worst day of my life". "I am very sad," he said, stroking the back of his recently cropped head. "I do not want to go to Kuwait. I only hope that the war will be over before I have to fight."

Certainly, any drive along Iraq's shattered road system would seem to bear out his fears, as a steady stream of taxis carrying cheap wooden coffins brings home the sons and fathers of Iraq to their families.

Some Iraqis in their thirties, veterans of the eight-year war with Iran, have taken matters into their own hands. They have decided to ignore the call-up and lie low in the hope that the conflict will not last long and that the present regime will no longer be in power when the war is over.

Although desertion is punishable by death, one survivor of frontline fighting in the Iran-Iraq war is adamant that he would rather take his chances on the run than return to his unit in Kuwait.

"I have spent the last month with relatives in a village to the south of Baghdad," he said. "There have already been many soldiers killed. This war is not the same as fighting the Iranians; the Americans are very strong and have many planes."

Another deserter, in his twenties and from a middle-class family, told his father that he will not fight out of principle and he is now hiding in the north of the country. Both men said that many other Iraqis have decided to desert and some are even paying small fortunes to be smuggled into Turkey.

Although desertion and mass surrender were common during the conflict with Iran, Iraqis and the last remaining diplomats in Baghdad say they have heard unparalleled criticism of Saddam and his handling of the war. "Everyone is complaining about him," the wife of a retired senior army officer said. "There was even one instance when a woman was seen in the street shouting abuse against Saddam at the top of her voice."

Aside from the general unpopularity aroused by demands that they should fight to the last man in defence of Kuwait, the Iraqi people have also expressed nationalistic reasons for opposing the war — the very emotions that Saddam is counting on to rally the people behind him. "This is not the war of the Iraqi people, this is Saddam's war," one Baghdad resident said. "Look at the destruction to our country. This man has set us back 40 years."

What Iraqis seem to find particularly unacceptable is that in the country with the second largest oil reserves in the Middle East, the ambitions and obstinacy of one man are fast rendering their nation an economic cripple.

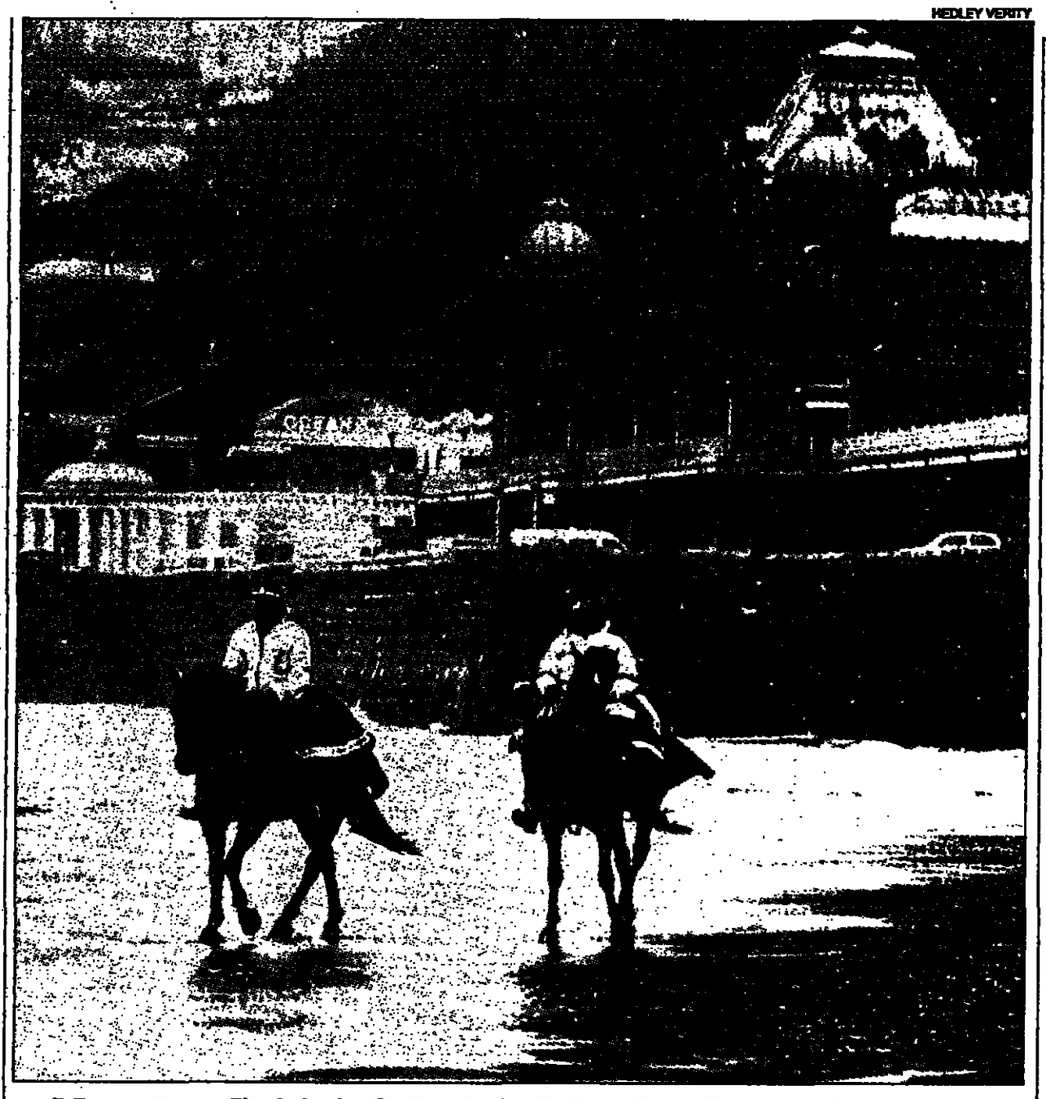
Although allied bombardments have certainly caused hundreds of deaths among civilians, not one person interviewed defended the Iraqi leader's decision to annex Kuwait. Only one expressed his support for the president and most suggested that the allies should limit their fighting to Iraqi military targets in Kuwait, suggesting an implied admittance that the two countries are separate states.

Whether or not the growing display of public criticism will affect Saddam's ability to wage war and ultimately to stay in power is unclear. It is still possible, however, that his close circle of aides and military chiefs might decide to replace him if it begins to look as though the war is lost and their fate is linked with that of the president.

● Top American officials yesterday cooled speculation that a full-scale land war in the Gulf was imminent, and suggested that a ground offensive would be far more subtle than an all-out assault on entrenched Iraqi positions (Martin Fletcher writes).

Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, said minimising allied casualties took priority over political pressure for a rapid ground offensive. General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of Operation Desert Storm, said it was "still too early to tell" whether a ground war would be necessary. He said there was "a lot of manoeuvre room, and the dumbest thing in the world you do is you go right into the teeth of the enemy and play his game".

Analysis: Jordanians remain defiant 6
Fighting: allied bombing record 7
Letters: lessons of past wars 11



HEDLEY VERITY

Police yesterday patrolling the beach at Scarborough, where the Young Conservatives conference is being held today

Bombing of lorries raises doubts

From John Phillips in Paris and Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

DOUBTS about the allied bombing of Iraq grew last night after concern was expressed in Moscow and Paris, and the Baghdad government invited a United Nations investigation into a raid on a Baghdad plant.

Senior political sources in Paris last night said the American bombing of Jordanian lorries travelling from Amman to Baghdad might be a political error comparable to the American bombing of Cambodia during the Vietnam war.

It could be the widening of the war that President Saddam Hussein is seeking, said one political source. "It is certainly a mistake to bomb the lorries using the Amman to Baghdad road. It is not going to change the course of the war." The bombing of the Jordanian lorries could play into the hands of Saddam by destabilising Jordan or alienating Arab opinion in North Africa.

"One must recall the way in which (former American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger) bombed Cambodia," said the source.

Meanwhile, Igor Yevstafyev, a Soviet military expert and UN investigator, yesterday condemned the targeting of chemical weapons plants.

The Iraqi government sought a UN investigation of a raid on what the Americans said was a bacteriological weapons plant and the Iraqis said was producing powdered milk for babies.

In another incident yesterday a Jordanian said at least 12 people were wounded when planes raided a small Iraqi town near the Jordanian border.

White weekend and no thaw on the horizon

By Bill Frost

WEATHER forecasters painted a picture of a white-out weekend last night and warned people to stay at home unless their journey was "absolutely essential".

As heavy snowfalls and sub-zero temperatures kept much of the country in a state of near-paralysis yesterday, the prospect was that similar conditions would prevail until early next week, continuing the worst spell of weather for more than four years.

From Land's End to the Borders, and across Europe as far south as Italy, the picture was the same yesterday: blocked roads, closed schools and severely disrupted transport services. Bournemouth, famed for its sunshine, was colder than Moscow, with an overnight temperature of -10.9C, the coldest since the great freeze of 1947. The Soviet capital recorded -9.6C.

Many drivers appeared to have heeded advice from the police and motoring organisations and stayed away from work as winds from Siberia whipped snow into deep drifts across Britain, leaving motorways and trunk roads all but impassable.

The London Weather Centre said last night that there would be a very gradual improvement in conditions by Monday morning. However there would still be isolated and sometimes heavy snow showers across the country and severe night frosts.

British Rail admitted that services were "in a mess" as maintenance workers struggled to prevent lines and rolling stock becoming ice-bound. A BR spokesman said yesterday that the Arctic conditions would have taxed even the expert snow-fighting abilities of countries such as Sweden and Switzerland.

Airports around the country struggled to stay open. Snow ploughs worked throughout the day at Heathrow to keep runways clear, but some flights were cancelled. It was a similar story at Gatwick. Manchester Airport was receiving flights diverted from Gatwick, Luton, Norwich, Birmingham and Leeds-Bradford. Shuttle services were affected. Both Birmingham International and East Midlands airports were closed.

John Major, the prime minister, was one of many who failed to make it through the snow yesterday. He was due to visit the Vickers Defence Systems factory in Leeds but the bad weather closed the city's airport. Other government ministers were forced to change their travel plans too. Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, cancelled his engagements in the Dumfries area, and talks in Glasgow between the Scottish TUC and Allan Stewart, the Scottish industry minister, were called off.

The Department of Transport said last night that rules on driving times and rest periods for drivers of goods and passenger vehicles would no longer apply from midnight. The Department said the relaxation would enable the transport industry to cope with the present severe weather and with the backlog of work which would remain when conditions improved.

Police in Staffordshire yesterday issued warnings about the use of portable gas heaters during the freezing weather after a young couple were found dead in the bedroom of their snow-bound home at Teddesley, near Stafford. They said such heaters should not be left unattended and should only be used in well-ventilated rooms.

The sea froze over at Minehead in Somerset, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon, and on stretches of coastline near Swansea.

Weather costs, page 3
Philip Howard, page 10
Leading article and Letters, page 11



TODAY

A flurry of true Brits

They fight their way to work, arriving in time to fight their way home. They demand everything from heated railway points to millions spent on snowploughs. They have more grit than most roads. They are the British, snowed under with stoicism

REPORTS, PAGE 3

The party, off but not over



Tina Brown, who gives parties and edits a magazine, explains to Alan Franks how the former has affected the latter as a consequence of war

SATURDAY REVIEW

The best of the few . . .

The undersoil heat is on at Old Trafford as Manchester United prepare to play Leeds tomorrow. Some other sport goes on (but check what is off)

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NEXT WEEK

One woman's echo of war

Le Ly Hayslip lived through America's Vietnam bombing offensive. On Monday, she tells of that experience and the echoes she fears in the war against Saddam

Bernard Levin, exasperated

Bernard Levin asks on Monday when the British will "cease to regard homosexuals as an undifferentiated mass worthy of nothing better than titters and diminishing epithets"

INSIDE

Midland £10 card charge

The Midland Bank is to charge an annual fee of £10 for use of Access and Visa cards. The bank has declared 680 job cuts from its administrative and back office staff over the next six months. Last month the bank revealed that it is to close 120 branches with the loss of 900 staff. Page 27

Gorbachev fear



President Gorbachev's already weak position could be worsened if, as expected, the Soviet Union's constitutional arbiter overrules his plan to introduce joint army-police patrols. Page 22

Forest plan

The government is to propose "community forests" on the outskirts of large conurbations and the Forestry Commission wants to plant on better quality land. Page 2

£1m claim lost

An accountant who fractured his skull after falling over a balustrade at the Ritz Hotel lost his suit for £1 million in the High Court. Page 2

Lost freedom

Children today enjoy less freedom than their parents and grandparents did beause of the risk they might be molested or hit by a car, says a survey. Page 4

Legal aid costs

Legal aid spending this year will be nearly £90 million more than forecast, bringing the gross cost of the scheme to more than £800m. Page 5

Power sharing

South Africa's ruling National Party is considering detailed plans to share power this year with the African National Congress. Page 8

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London combines its Olympic bids at last

LONDON will challenge Manchester for the United Kingdom's nomination for the 2000 Olympic Games after the capital's two rival groups united their bids yesterday.

London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, and the London Council for Sport and Recreation agreed on a joint board only eight hours before the British Olympic Association's (BOA) extended deadline.

Coe will be president of the London Olympic 2000 Campaign board, made up of three members from each of the original groups. The board has to persuade the BOA that it has a viable bid to beat Manchester for the British nomination in the voting in April; and then win the International Olympic Committee election in September 1993, against cities such as Peking, Milan, Berlin, Sydney and Istanbul.

Political in-fighting had threatened to end London's hopes of staging the first Olympic Games in Britain since 1948.

Full report, page 23

Cold snap turns justice hot under the collar

By John Young

BRITONS may have thought they were coping manfully enough yesterday with the latest Great Freeze. The eyes of the law saw it otherwise.

Mr Justice Alliott, most senior judge at the Central Criminal Court, delivered a scathing judgment on what he called the "pathetic reaction of the transport authorities" to the onset of snow and ice, which severely disrupted the course of justice.

"Several trials have had to be postponed until next week because jurors and counsel did not arrive," he fumed. "The ranks of staff and court officials were also depleted by transport problems."

A short distance away, at Bow Street magistrates' court, Sir David Hopkin, the Chief Metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, took an equally stern view. He described the failure of Roger Levitt, the financial adviser, and his counsel to appear at the court as "discourteous".

He was told by Fred Coford, for the prosecution, that Mr Levitt had been advised by his solicitor not to attend the court because of the "severe weather conditions". Mr Levitt, who faces two charges of theft totalling £665,000, was said to have been forced to abandon his car in central London on Thursday night.

"If there is a remand from this court, somebody else attends unless the court says otherwise," Sir David thundered.

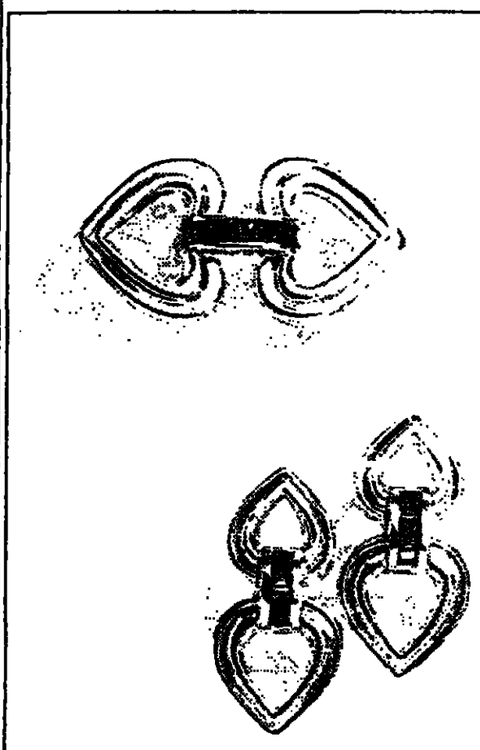
Elsewhere, however, the snow was of assistance to the law. In the village of Durrington, Wiltshire, two men were seen breaking into a car. The owner called the police who tracked footprints in the snow to nearby Bulford, where the suspects were apprehended. There were similar incidents in Spondon, Derbyshire, and in Basingstoke, Hampshire, where a sniffer dog found itself redundant because the footprints were so clear.

Johnny Morris, who was due to narrate the children's story *The Snowman* at Southampton Guildhall, was forced to cancel his performance. Worse, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, the composer, put off the service at St Botolph's church, Burgh, Suffolk, to celebrate his marriage to Madeleine Gurdon. Hundreds of people were planning to travel from all over the country, and the ceremony has now been postponed until next Saturday.

There was some good news. Robin Watkins, of Welton, near Hull, fell into a snowdrift from which he was unable to extricate himself, but managed to call for help on his portable telephone; and a rottweiler dog was rescued after falling through the ice on a pond in Folkestone, Kent.

Racing was abandoned at the so-called all-weather course at Southwell, Nottinghamshire, confirming predictions that it is not much use having a track that will survive the worst that nature can do if you cannot get people and horses there. A man in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, was able to use skis to get to the pub, but the World Cup downhill races in Val d'Isère, in France, were called off (too much snow).

A visiting American businessman summed it all up. "You British don't seem to cope very well," David Floyd, of Chicago, commented. "You get a few inches of snow, and the whole country comes to a stop. This is a joke or what?"



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Balustrade victim loses £1m claim against the Ritz

By ROBIN YOUNG

AN ACCOUNTANT who fractured his skull after falling over a balustrade at the Ritz hotel in Piccadilly lost his suit for £1 million damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Macpherson said that the hotel was not liable for the accident in October 1985 in which Anthony Ward, aged 50, suffered injuries which he claimed had obliged him to retire early from his £120,000 a year partnership in the accountancy firm, Leigh Carr. The judge said he could not find that the hotel had breached its duty of care.

"It was a terrible accident for Mr Ward, his family and those who saw it. But accidents do happen which are not the responsibility of anyone in law and for which an occupier is not liable," the judge said. He had inspected the scene of the fall earlier this week. "I am convinced this is such a case."

Mr Ward, from Hendon, northwest London, was ordered to pay the costs of the case, unofficially estimated at £150,000. He had claimed that the Ritz had been negligent in failing to raise the height of its balustrade when tile flooring was laid on top of marble on the terrace.

He argued that the reduction in height of 5in to 6in created a dangerous situation, so that when he fainted after a lunch party he fell over the parapet instead of behind it. The judge said that with hindsight it might have been better to have raised the balustrade to the present British standard height of 3ft 7in, but this did not constitute a case of negligence. Hundreds of guests had used the terrace without complaint or accident. The chance of a sudden faint such as that which had caused Mr Ward to fall would have appeared so remote that the hotel could not be blamed.

A lawyer for the Ritz Hotel (London) said after the verdict: "We have always totally resisted this case. We feel vindicated." Mr Ward declined to comment.



Ward outside court: he argued that the reduction in the balustrade's height created a danger

Policy backs broadleaved trees

Tree planting should move down the hill, proposals next week will suggest. John Young assesses the prospect

THE government is to announce next Thursday its proposals for a number of "community forests" on the outskirts of large conurbations. They will complement the three already announced for an area east of London, to be known as Thames Chase, east Staffordshire (Forest of Mercia) and Tyne and Wear (Great North Forest), as well as the larger new national forest intended to cover 150 square miles within a region comprising parts of Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Derbyshire.

Britain, as Sir Derek Barber, the outgoing chairman of the Countryside Commission, points out, is now the least forested country in Europe. It was not always so. When the Romans arrived, "the big green island" was blanketed by woods, and large areas survived through the Middle Ages.

It would be unrealistic to suppose that the great forests will ever return. But the new proposals can be seen as marking a significant change in national policy. The indiscriminate planting of hillsides with great blankets of conifers, particularly in national parks and other areas of high scenic value, has tended to give forestry a dirty name.

Until recently, the uplands were seen as the most suitable areas for large-scale planting. While it was acknowledged that Britain needed an expanded domestic forest industry, in the interests of employment and the balance of payments, there was a presumption that the more fertile lowland landscapes should be retained for farming. A year later that perception has radically altered. European Community food production continues to create surpluses, and encouragement has been given to farmers to take land out of production, notably through set aside schemes.

Forestry ought to provide part of the answer. The Forestry Commission wants to see tree planting move "down the hill" on to the better quality land which is now becoming available. That policy is likely to be given a boost by the findings of a report this week, published jointly by the commission and by the environment department, that in areas above 1,000ft in altitude, where cloud and mist are common and precipitation higher than average, conifer forests may "scavenge" the fallout of sulphur and nitrogen compounds from power stations, factories and vehicle exhausts, and so contribute to the acidification of rivers and lakes.

The report exonerated conifer trees themselves, which thrive on acid soils, from causing increased acidification. It has become clear, however, that conifers planted in straight lines up the sides of hills encourage acid run-off and are thereby polluters as well as eyesores.

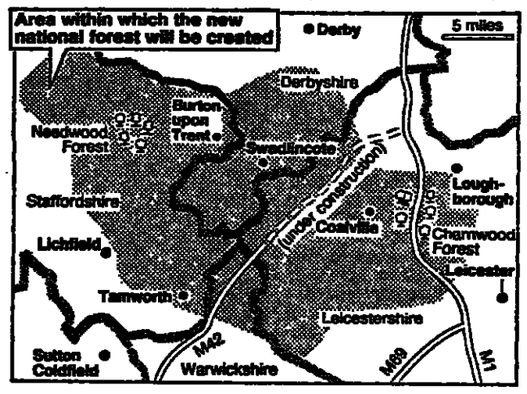
While timber production should remain a primary objective, forests should be visually attractive, help to conserve wildlife and provide a public amenity. That requires a broader range of species, with a greater emphasis on broadleaved trees which have until now been conspicuously neglected by commercial forestry companies, because they take far longer to mature and produce a profit.

In its annual report last month the commission observed that last year 5,000 hectares (12,500 acres) of broadleaved trees were planted, ten times as many as ten years ago. That has been achieved by increasing incentives for the planting of mixed woodlands, notably under the farm woodland scheme, and by removing the much criticised tax incentives for investors in commercial forestry.

The change in emphasis has met with a mixed reception. In the year ending March 31, 1990, total planting of all species fell by a third from nearly 30,000 hectares to fewer than 20,000 hectares. Timber Growers UK, which represents private woodland owners, blames the removal of schedule D tax relief in 1988 and has urged the government to reintrodnce concessions which would exempt forestry owners from inheritance tax and would allow them to claim mortgage tax relief.

Sir Derek, who is shortly to take up the chairmanship of a private company involved in agriculture and forestry, has also criticised the withdrawal of tax relief "which has made stagnant the former active pools of private investment".

Britain has an annual import bill of £7 billion for timber and timber products, he points out. Conifers are often a necessary means of funding hardwoods and, if public prejudice can be lifted, will provide a rich landscape tapestry in their own right, he says.



Recession causes job losses across all industries

ROLLS-ROYCE yesterday announced a cut of 230 jobs from its workforce, on top of the 340 losses announced last month. The company, based in Crewe, Cheshire, hopes that the losses can be achieved through natural wastage and voluntary redundancies.

The luxury car market has been particularly badly hit by the recession. January 1991 sales of Rolls-Royces and Bentleys fell by more than half compared with January 1990.

More than 200 people in Bedfordshire have lost their jobs after the collapse of a building company, CP Roberts, which has gone into liquidation causing the closure of three firms, CP Roberts Construction, Ampthill Joinery and Ampthill Plant Hire, at Flitwick.

Another company forced to make redundancies is CMB Packages, a bottling and packaging firm in Norwich, which yesterday announced 268 job losses. The firm, which employs 525 people, is closing its bottling department by April.

Bowater Security Printing, of Swindon, Wiltshire, which supplies cheque books, share certificates and other paper work to banks, is to close by tyhe end of March with the loss of 81 jobs.

Another 31 workers have been made redundant with the collapse of Tisbury Printing Works at Salisbury, Wiltshire, and 20 jobs have been lost at Wessex Designcraft, another Salisbury-based company.

At Stroud, Gloucestershire, 20 council jobs could be lost in a cost-cutting bid to save £200,000.

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EQUITABLE LIFE	14	7	3
NPI	4	3	3
PRUDENTIAL	4	4	3
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	2	2	—
NORWICH UNION	1	4	3
SCOTTISH LIFE	1	—	3
SCOTTISH WIDOWS'	1	—	2
SCOTTISH AMICABLE	1	—	1
NATIONAL MUTUAL	1	—	—
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	1	—	—
SCOTTISH MUTUAL	1	—	—
PROVIDENT MUTUAL	—	2	2
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE	—	1	1
CLERICAL MEDICAL	—	1	—
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	—	1	—
SUN ALLIANCE	—	1	—
STANDARD LIFE	—	—	3
EQUITY & LAW	—	—	1
BRITANNIA LIFE	—	—	1

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Labour ready to pay councillors

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR councillors would become full-time paid officials under a Labour plan devised to counter proposals for elected mayors now being considered by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary.

Addressing the Labour local government conference in Nottingham, Bryan Gould, the party's environment spokesman, said that Labour had policies which were clearer and more practical than those of the Tories.

He emphasised Labour's "Fair Rates" plan, which would replace the poll tax with domestic rates based on a combination of notional rents and property values. With rebates for the less well off, the Labour scheme would be fairer and easier to collect than the poll tax. Mr Gould told delegates: "In every area we have a rounded set of policies ready to go."

Labour would scrap the poll tax as soon as it took office and would implement a three-stage reform plan for the financing of local government, including a comprehensive revaluation of domestic property and an overhaul of the system of central grants to councils. In the final stage, new measures would be introduced to link the amount paid in rates to the income of householders, a process that might involve the very rich paying more.

Mr Gould also raised for the first time the idea of paying a salary to some councillors to act as full-time council members, supervising the activities of their authority and being available to deal with constituents. Party officials said later that the plan was to pay the chairmen of council committees who would act as an "executive cabinet" running the council. No salary levels had yet been settled. Most councils have about eight committees covering areas such as planning, education and leisure.

The plan for elected city mayors has provoked warnings that with power concentrated in the hands of one person, the system would be open to financial and political corruption. The Labour scheme offers a dispersion of power while retaining the advantage of having a small, highly visible group of people who can be held accountable for their actions.

Leading article, page 11



Gould: "Clearer and more practical policies"

MPs showing new interest in register

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE latest edition of the Register of Members' Interests was published yesterday, disclosing an effort by MPs to avoid the stigma of a public rebuke for withholding information about their outside pursuits.

The tendency to declare interests comes after the case of John Browne, when the committee on members' interests censured the Winchester MP for failing to list all of his connections. While it is hard to discern exactly where MPs get their money from by examining the lists of directorships, sponsorships and shareholdings, the entries appear to be fuller, increasing the register from 98 pages to 111 pages this year. The edition requires MPs to declare all directorships held this parliament.

It also throws up some intriguing insights. For example Alan Meale, Labour MP for Mansfield, lists himself as parliamentary spokesperson and unpaid consultant to the "Stand By Me" Club, devoted solely to promoting the song of that name, especially versions by Ben E. King and Kenny Lynch. Gerald Howarth, the Tory MP for Cannock and Burntwood, declares that he is honorary parliamentary adviser to the British Council of Professional Stage Hypnotists.

Modest shareholdings come to light, such as the one share in Greater Nottingham Co-Op owned by Graham Allen, the local Labour MP. Paddy Ashdown holds shares worth under £100 in Westland helicopter company in his Yeovil constituency, while Labour's Bob Cryer declares five £10 shares in Keighley and Worth Valley Light Railway (no dividend ever received). Apart from trade union sponsorship, Neil Kinnock declares an unpaid directorship of the Residents Opposed to (CF'Lonydd) Quarry Ltd.

For most entries, the value of holdings is not disclosed. It would be hard to attach a price tag to some, such as a day's fishing on the river Test for Michael Colvin, courtesy of Plessey, or Quentin Davies's small flock of ewes.

At the more exclusive end of the register, Alan Clark, the defence minister, puts down: "I own Saltwood castle in Kent and farms in Wiltshire and Devon. My family own Eriboll Estate and harbour in Sutherland."

Death pact killed four

Two depressed mothers killed themselves and their daughters in separate incidents involving fume-filled cars, a coroner was told yesterday.

Dr Lawrence Addicott, the South Glamorgan coroner, was told that Linda Houghton, aged 28, a divorcee, had included her daughters Nicola, aged six, and Melanie, three, in a death pact with her lover, David Jones, aged 32.

Mrs Houghton, of Rumney, Cardiff, said in a note: "The girls know they are going to meet God and they have no fear."

The four bodies were found in Mr Jones's car in a remote field near Cardiff, the inquest was told. Mrs Houghton had been having treatment for depression.

In the other case, the coroner was told that Sandra Dinsdale, aged 29, an RAF wife depressed after moving to RAF St Athan, near Cardiff, was found dead in a car with her children, Claire, aged eight, and Sarah, five.

Dr Addicott recorded verdicts of suicide on Mrs Dinsdale and on Mrs Houghton and Mr Jones, and of unlawful killing on the children.

Tribunal for policewoman

Alison Halford, Merseyside assistant chief constable and Britain's most senior policewoman, is to face a full-scale disciplinary tribunal.

The Merseyside police authority's senior officers' disciplinary committee yesterday told Miss Halford, aged 50, that she must answer charges before Miss Sheila Cameron, QC. No date has been set.

Miss Halford had earlier spent 45 minutes responding to the allegations, which arose from an incident in a swimming pool at the home of a businessman.

An independent firm of solicitors will draw up charges based on the allegations.

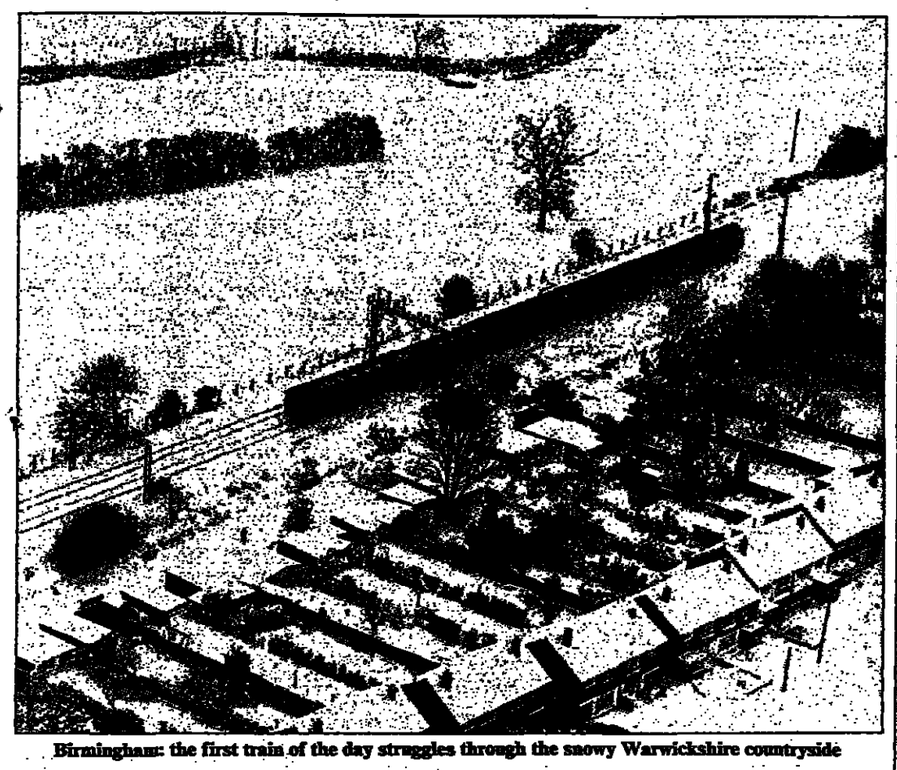
Couple jailed

A couple were each jailed for 24 years at Belfast crown court yesterday for attempting to murder members of the security forces with a booby-trap bomb. Patrick Sheehan and Marie Wright, both of Belfast, were caught attaching a 2lb Semtex device to a security barrier in the city in 1989.

Battle of minds

Tournament of the Mind will this year be played in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and *The Times Educational Supplement*. The contest begins in both papers next Friday and will continue for six weeks.

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Birmingham: the first train of the day struggles through the snowy Warwickshire countryside



London: a Grenadier Guard posts a sign cancelling the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace yesterday



Leeds: the Black Prince and his charger are turned white overnight in the open spaces of Leeds City Square

Substantial investment cannot guarantee to keep country running

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of pounds would have to be invested in snow-clearing equipment to enable the rail and road networks to cope more effectively with severe weather, and even that would not guarantee immunity, transport officials say.

Because much of the expensive equipment would have to be kept in storage for years waiting for freak weather, the considerable cost could not be justified. Rail and road officials insist that, contrary to belief, Britain is not brought to its knees every time snow falls, and the conviction that continental networks cope better is a "fallacy".

As transport managers congratulate themselves for keeping most of the rail and road networks in operation much of the time in the worst weather for four years, stranded commuters might find it difficult to believe that Britain's ability to keep the country moving has never been more effective. British Rail, which owns two snowblowers, 77 large snowploughs, 143 mini-snowploughs and 20 anemometers for giving advance warning of snowdrifts, estimates that 90 per cent of the network was operating during the first 24 hours of the blizzard. By operational, BR means that trains were running although delays could be protracted and cancellations frequent.

Three year ago, British Rail southern region invested £750,000 in a snowblower that clears tracks at the speed of a passenger train. The machine was being readied last night for its first mission, to clear the tracks between Purley and Caterham and Purley and Tattenham Corner.

"It is a question of how much you are prepared to spend," British Rail said. "After the last bad weather, Network SouthEast spent £750,000 on a snowblower for removing large snowdrifts, and it has been sitting idle for three years. We could have had 20 snowblowers parked around the country, in which case we would have had £20 million sitting idle for three years."

As part of its modernisation programme, British Rail has installed heaters on 16,000 of the 24,000 sets of points needed to run the national network, each heater costing thousands of pounds. "While the points have not frozen, the spaces between them have become so packed with snow that they have overwhelmed the points heaters and jammed solid," British Rail said. Abnormally low temperatures have led to a host of difficulties, including frozen train doors and engines seizing.

None the less, the paucity of information about cancellations and delays cannot be blamed on the weather, and British Rail's failure to solve this communications problem makes bad weather appear much worse.

The transport department is equally dismissive of the idea that continental countries cope better with bad weather. "It simply is not true," one official said. "On this occassion the warning went out well in advance, we liaised with the regional offices, the highway authorities began gritting the roads the night before, the snowblowers were ready and we kept the national road system open."

This financial year the transport department has allocated £24 million to increase and maintain its fleet of 282 snowploughs, including 23 snowblowers, used to keep the 1,600 miles of motorway open. "The roads are open and public transport is operational. It is unrealistic to expect severe weather conditions not to have any effect on the transport system. It always has and it always will," the department said.

Philip Howard, page 10
Leading article, page 11

PENNINE SEARCH

Missing boys are safe

THREE schoolboys whose absence from their homes in a blizzard led to a search by police on both sides of the Pennines were found safe yesterday (Peter Davenport writes).

Jamie Morgan and Aaron Kennedy, both aged 15, and John Wigglesworth, aged 14, went missing on Tuesday. The boys, from Bradford and all pupils at Beckfoot grammar school, Bingley, took a two-man tent and rucksacks with them and were later reported to have been seen buying walking boots in the Yorkshire Dales village of Grassington.

As heavy snow covered the area, police expressed serious concern for the safety of the boys. Yesterday, however, they were found 100 miles away, staying in a caravan belonging to one of the families at a site near Blackpool.

West Yorkshire police said that they were still searching for three girls missing from their home in Leeds. Emma Wilkinson and Carolyn Robson, aged 14, and Melanie Newton, aged 13, were last seen on Monday.



Venice: gondolas covered with snow rocking at their moorings in an ice-filled canal as an unprecedented cold spell affects the whole of southern Italy

MOTORING

Keeping on the move should be mechanical

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT out of ten motorists rescued by breakdown services in this week's sub-zero temperatures had forgotten to fill their car radiators with anti-freeze.

Drivers are notoriously unprepared for sudden changes in the weather. The Automobile Association and Royal Automobile Club have had a record 47,000 emergency calls between them in 24 hours. A despairing RAC controller said: "The routine is repeated every year. The checks are simple but so many motorists simply fail to carry them out."

Sensible precautions include putting anti-freeze in the radiator to prevent the engine from seizing up and in the washer system so that the windscreen can be cleared. Tyres should be inflated to the correct pressures to ensure good grip.

Then caution should be the watchword. Ivan Ellis, the RAC's head of driver training, says motorists should relax even in the worst conditions or they will drive jerkily and run into problems. Start in second gear and drive smoothly and constantly, keeping in as high a gear as possible, anticipating danger and leaving plenty of space behind the car ahead. Pressing the brakes hard or the accelerator too eagerly will take the car out of control.

Drivers of cars with automatic gearboxes need to concentrate particulary hard, staying in the "D" drive gear as much as possible. Changing down rapidly could put the car into a slide.

Listen to the tyre noise. A sudden change of note could mean the car is on ice, especially if accompanied by a light feel to the steering. In a slide, keep away from the brakes because they will make the problem worse. Instead, lift the foot off the throttle or brake and turn the steering wheel into the direction of the slide until the car straightens up.

Be prepared in case the car becomes trapped. Carry extra clothing, boots, rugs, sleeping bag, hot drinks and plenty of chocolate or snack foods. Most motorists could expect to be rescued in a few hours, but the Institute of Technology Survival says that the wrong moves will quickly lead to the onset of hypothermia. Death could then come before rescue.

Everyday items such as plastic carrier bags to keep feet dry or newspapers to insulate windows could be useful. The institute teaches motorists at its courses that 30 per cent of body heat is lost through the head. A fluffy seat cover or even a pair of tights will be a useful makeshift hat.

Running the engine for a few minutes each hour is useful – but make sure the exhaust is clear and that a window is open slightly to prevent carbon monoxide fumes filling the car. Digging the car out is likely to work up a sweat, a quick way of losing body heat. Take off a few under-layers of clothing first, putting them back on inside the car. Staying with the car is the best option.

TOURISM

An ill wind blowing hotels power of good

By WILLIAM CASH

THE snowstorms have come to the rescue of London's top hotels which, a week ago, were drastically reducing prices as tourists gave Britain the cold shoulder.

Then, with the capital snowed in overnight, hotel managers rubbed their hands in glee as businessmen and office workers unable to get home booked entire floors and filled the dance floors to dance the night away on expenses.

The Tower Thistle Hotel in the City has been fully booked since lunchtime on Thursday, when it took more than 300 bookings. Knrt Kuen, the general manager, said that block bookings had been made by banks, insurance brokers and other businessess needing staff to be at work by 8am. "Many checked out at around five in the morning, to get their day's work over and get away early for the weekend," he said.

The weather caught the hotel, like other organisations, by surprise, and its carvery restaurant had run out of food by 11pm. With most guests able to bill their night on the town to expenses, the hotel's bars were packed, Mr Knen reported. Its Which Way West nightclub was filled with revellers until the early hours.

The Ritz in Piccadilly reported a surge of bookings, including some London residents unable to get home because of jams caused by frozen traffic lights. Aradha Arora, the hotel's house manager, said that unexpected reservations had been made by about 20 businessmen, some accompanied by their secretaries.

"Of course, this being the Ritz, we would never place secretaries in the same room," she said.

Anyone with a river view room at the Savoy would have seen trails of car lights glowing through a smog of exhaust smoke and snow as traffic stood bumper-to-bumper along the Embankment. A spokesman for the Savoy said that business had doubled in the past two days and that the hotel was over 80 per cent full. The investment bank Goldman Sachs had made a booking for this weekend for a large conference that it had planned to hold in the country.

Guests hoping to escape the weather by staying at the Gloucester Hotel in Kensington were not so lucky. A water pipe on the first floor burst at around 7pm and all heating and electricity had to be switched off. Some 300 shivering guests were escorted into the driving snow. They ended up huddled together in the lounge of a neighbouring hotel where they were forced to camp out until power was restored.

At the upmarket Le Meridien Hotel, also in Piccadilly, would-be guests were walking in off the street covered in snow up until 3am yesterday.

HOW OTHERS COUNTRIES SURVIVE

The Canadians cope in comfort and style

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN a Canadian peeps through his window to find overnight snowfalls, he reaches for a remote control unit to start his car without leaving the home.

There is time to sip coffee, flip through the morning papers and pack a briefcase while the car's engine warms up and the interior reaches a comfortable 60F. The driveway, fitted with an underground heating system that comes on when the temperature drops below freezing, is snow-free. Driver and vehicle are then ready to travel to work on special mud/snow tyres down streets cleared by snow blowing ploughs.

The difference between Canada, used to heavy snowfalls, and Britain has again become apparent as the nation is gripped by blizzards. British Rail has cancelled services because the automatic doors on its train carriages have frozen. Drivers have complained that the snow ploughs used on the roads are museum pieces, and the highways are littered with vehicles put out of action by a lack of preparation.

Many cars in Canada have heated mirrors, heated door locks, plug sockets for keeping the engine block warm, and heated battery blankets. The mud/snow tyres, which allow drivers to speed down motorways in even heavy snow rather than crawl along timidily, have deep and patterned tread that runs up the side of the tyre.

Car tents are popular in Quebec. These can be set up swiftly next to a house to cover a car so that it does not become snowbound. Vulnerable water pipes on the outside of buildings often have cladded, heating units that switch on automatically when the temperature drops. Canadian trains run to timetable on tracks cleared by snow-blowing locomotives.

The Canadians have also been working on novel technical solutions to hypothermia in elderly people and also farm animals. A five-year research project at the University of Guelph in Ontario has demonstrated that low powered microwaves can "defrost" lambs suffering from hypothermia without any ill effects.

Where Britain has excelled is in devising the world's most extraordinary idea for using ice. In the second world war, Geoffrey Pyke, an inventor, spy, and member of a think-tank run by Lord Louis Mountbatten, proposed a design for a 2,000ft long ship made from ice. The vessel, named HMS Habbakuk and with walls of ice 30ft thick, was designed as a torpedo-proof floating runway.

The idea is thought to have come to Pyke from the Inuit eskimos, who make heat-resistant ice homes by mixing snow and lichen. He developed a material made from ice and wood pulp, which tests showed was as strong as steel. Lord Mountbatten tested it for Churchill by dropping it in the prime minister's bath, where it floated without melting.

Engineers in Canada even built a 100ft prototype ship. The ship looked likely to be approved in early 1945, but the project was cancelled after VE Day.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
The wives left behind

"She is lonely and she is frightened. She is the soldier's wife. When the children have gone to bed, the wedding album is quietly taken out of the drawer. Her fingers linger over the pictures. Comfort comes in many



forms; one young wife has taken to wearing her husband's dressing gown around the house. Once in a while she uncorks his bottle of Aramis aftershave to breathe in the scent: "It sounds silly, but I feel safe when I do that," she said."

Profile of the Army wife, The Sunday Times tomorrow.

HOMELESS

MPs' plea wins emergency beds for bedraggled

By PETER MULLIGAN AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

ANOTHER 200 emergency beds were provided yesterday by the Salvation Army and housing charities for the bedraggled army of people sleeping rough on the streets of London.

That brings to 700 the total that the environment and health departments have agreed in the past week to pay for at an undisclosed cost to rescue the homeless as London shivers in sub-zero temperatures. According to a count by voluntary workers, a total of 1,046 were still sleeping rough on Thursday night in chill nooks and crannies of the capital.

The government indicated, meanwhile, that more shelter would be made available after MPs voiced concern that the homeless might freeze to death. Timothy Yeo, the junior environment minister, said in the Commons that their plight was being reviewed "hour to hour" and extra hostel places would be found if it was necessary.

Under pressure from MPs from all parties who urged immediate action, he promised to consider using the Army to ferry people off the streets into shelters.

The issue was raised by Dale Campbell-Savours, the Labour MP for Workington, who related how he and other MPs had seen the most "appalling sights imaginable" after finding themselves snowbound at Euston station. He spoke of "ill-clad people, shuffling in the street with nowhere to go, people sleeping rough in indescribable squalor, caked in snow, lying on pavements and in shop doorways".

The minister responded that some of the extra places had not been taken up on Thursday night and he would consider ways of letting those sleeping rough know about them. He rejected criticism that the bed allocation was insufficient by emphasising that they were an emergency response.

The use of the Army was suggested by Hugh Dykes, Tory MP for Harrow East, who added: "It is unacceptable that even one single person is on the streets in this condition in this kind of weather." A call for emergency food aid was made by Ann Clwyd, speaking for Labour. Among schemes announced to meet the emergency is the reopening by the Salvation Army of a disused hostel at Blackfriars for 80 men which is scheduled for demolition. The housing charity Crisis provided 60 beds at Bruce House, the former hostel owned by Westminster city council which has been lying empty. Another 50 places are being provided at the redundant Soho Square hospital, run by the charity Centrepoint.

Ian Brady, deputy director of Centrepoint, said last night: "Conditions this winter are now a life-or-death matter. We have a constant stream of young people coming in who haven't eaten whose health is deteriorating."

The environment department announced a helpline for people living rough to telephone: 071 434 2522.

☐ An estimated 2.2 million people on income support, including 1.5 million pensioners, are eligible for the £6 cold weather payments to help heating bills during the present cold snap, the social security department said last night (Jill Sherman writes).

Social security offices are placing advertisements in local newspapers to encourage pensioners, disabled people and families with children under five who are on income support to get the appropriate forms to apply for the payments. Pensioners with savings over £1,000 and other groups with capital over £500 will not be able to get extra help.

P&O preparing bid for port of Dover to compete with tunnel

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

P&O, the international property, distribution and shipping conglomerate, is considering a bid for the port of Dover under government proposals to privatise leading trust ports.

An examination of the options, including acquisition of the entire port, obtaining a long lease on the facilities used by P&O European Ferries, or maintaining the status quo, are in the early stages. Senior P&O managers believe that the acquisition of all or part of Dover, Britain's leading ferry port, may provide the only effective answer to the competitive threat posed by the Channel tunnel, scheduled to begin services in June 1993.

P&O, which operates 13 ships out of Dover and carries about 72 per cent of Dover's cross-Channel passengers and freight, believes that acquisition of the port would enable it to improve the service by offering a "fully integrated service" for cross-Channel passengers.

Highlighting the competitive edge enjoyed by Eurotunnel, Graeme Dunlop, managing director of P&O European Ferries, said: "The Channel tunnel controls its terminals at both ends, the ferry companies do not. Ferry operaters would like to rectify this situation because it would enable them to provide a much higher quality of service on cross-Channel routes."

Government plans to privatise the trust ports, the 100 or so public sector coastal facilities that are responsible for handling more than a third of Britain's sea-borne exports and imports, were unveiled in the Queen's Speech in November. The government wants to privatise those trust ports with an annual turnover in excess of £5 million. The proposed turnover threshold catches about 14 trust ports, including Dover.

In contrast to ports already in the private sector, the trust ports are subject to restrictions on the use of their asset base to borrow money to finance redevelopment schemes such as industrial, leisure, and retail projects, because their assets belong to the state. The ports bill is designed to wipe away such obstacles, enabling them to attract private capital.



Dunlop: aiming to provide higher quality service

In addition, the government has also incorporated so-called "reserve powers" into the trust ports privatisation bill, enabling ministers to coerce those ports above the £5 million threshold into the private sector if they fail to go voluntarily within two years of the bill becoming law.

Jonathan Sloggett, the managing director of Dover harbour board, said that although more than £100 million had been invested in new and modernised piers, berths, buildings, roads, and car parks over the past decade, it would be difficult to put a price on the value of the port. Mr Sloggett was, however, sceptical of the private sector's enthusiasm for acquiring the port of Dover because of the commercial uncertainty expected to accompany the opening of the Channel tunnel.

"We expect the tunnel to attract a significant proportion of the cross-Channel traffic, particularly the foot passengers," he said.

"There remains great uncertainty about whether there will be a stable competitive relationship between Eurotunnel and the ferry companies or whether it will be unstable competitive relationship, including a price war. Until that question is answered our main concern is the Channel tunnel, not privatisation."



Vision of the past: a visitor to the exhibition encounters tyrannosaurus rex

Museum foresees lucrative future for dinosaur era

By SIMON TAIT

THE Natural History Museum is relying on a collection of dinosaurs for help in creating a brighter future. It hopes to capitalise on the success of an exhibition featuring 12ft robotic models of the beasts, earning hundreds of thousands of pounds by renting them out.

The Return of the Living Dinosaurs exhibition opened in June and should have closed on February 25, but the museum says that public demand has led to an extension until the end of May.

Visitors to the museum, in Kensington, London, had been steadily declining in number since admission charges were introduced in 1987, but last year there was a 5 per cent rise to 1.6 million, in spite of an increased charge and fewer tourists. The museum credits the dinosaurs, which will have been seen by more than a million people by the time the exhibition closes.

The museum has formed a partnership with the robot makers, Kokoro of Tokyo, to sell the exhibition. The museum hopes to sign contracts soon for two British venues and a 12-site tour of Spain. Audrey O'Connell, Kokoro's European representative, hopes that discussions with potential clients in Holland, Italy and Portugal will result in more tours.

Paul Hackwell, the museum's head of finance, said: "This is so much of an experiment that we dare not think of the possibilities, but they could be very exciting."

He said that a visitor survey had shown that 96 per cent of visitors wanted to see the dinosaurs again.

Scientists and the public have appreciated the authenticity of the robots and children have tried to feed buns to the monsters. The robots are safe, powered by compressed air rather than electricity, and are more reliable than previous attempts.

Their accuracy has been supervised by one of the world's leading palaeontologists, Jack Horner of Montana state university and the Museum of the Rockies.

The exhibition has been quite cheap to mount and the museum has incorporated a dinosaur shop selling books and souvenirs, which is expected to gross £400,000.

50 surplus schools to close or merge

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 20 schools in Sheffield would close and another 32 would merge under a rationalisation plan to shed 3,000 surplus school places. The proposals will be put to a special meeting of city's education authority on Tuesday.

The authority launched a review of its school provision last year because of concern about the impact of the national curriculum on first and middle schools, the effects of local management on small schools and the high level of spare classroom capacity. The plan is partly designed to accommodate a new system of primary schools.

Sheffield will lose up to four secondary schools, 16 primaries and possibly some nursery schools by September 1992 if the proposals are accepted. A consultation exercise, involving every school in the city, will take place in time for statutory notices to be issued by July.

Anne Muller, the acting chief education officer who drew up the proposals, said: "Our concern must be to ensure that all our schools can deliver the quality and standards of education the people of Sheffield deserve — and to do that they must be able to command the resources they need." No decisions would be taken until consultation was complete.

Cheltenham rebels confident of winning secret poll

By PETER VICTOR

UP TO 1,000 members of the Tory faithful are expected to file into Cheltenham town hall at 3pm tomorrow to decide once and for all whether John Taylor, black barrister and would-be MP, is their democratically selected prospective parliamentary candidate.

The dispute over Mr Taylor's selection was led by eight opponents and seven supporters. The eight gathered 139 signatures on a petition expressing opposition to Mr Taylor, forcing Cheltenham Conservative association to convene tomorrow's meeting. The seven, in response, obtained hundreds of signatures backing him. Both factions will be marshalling their forces today.

Weather permitting, nearly a quarter of the association membership is due to attend. The only item on the agenda will be whether Mr Taylor's selection last December broke party rules. The eight, under the leadership of Bob Williams, a Cheltenham businessman, say that the selection should be declared void, suggesting that association members were given no choice of candidate. Confusion at the selection meeting had led to many people voting for Mr Taylor when they meant to vote against.

Mr Williams said yesterday that he expected the vote to be close. "We haven't had access to the membership records that Tories for Taylor have been given. I think there'll be 500 each side."

He said that many members has been intimidated by the show of hands at the original selection meeting and tomorrow's secret ballot would let them show their true colours. He was by no means certain of victory, however. "We're as ready as we'll ever be," he said.

Already the anti-Taylor rebels are complaining that they are to be the victims of a purge if the local party leadership gets its way and Mr Taylor is endorsed.

Mr Williams was shaken this week at the annual meeting of his local branch of the association. He was co-opted onto the branch committee last November. On Tuesday he was voted off. "They've now announced that they booted me off because I didn't toe the party line," Mr Williams said. "If we lose the vote on Sunday, they will do their best to expel the rebel eight. We've done nothing wrong — we just wanted a choice of candidate. The Tory party is supposed to be a democracy. It's more like the bloody Labour party these days."

Monica Drinkwater, the association's chairman, said yesterday that she thought tomorrow's vote would go two-to-one in Mr Taylor's favour, silencing the rebels once and for all.

Mr Taylor also was confident. He has bought a house in Cheltenham and believes he has done all he can to gain constituents' support. "I've done a lot of work and people have responded to me in a tremendously positive way," he said. "I am confident because of that response."



Taylor: "Tremendously positive response"

Polys run up £8m in debt

Three polytechnics and 22 higher education colleges registered deficits in their first year of independent operation, a review of the sector's finances showed yesterday. Two more institutions expect to be in the same position this year.

The debts, which amounted to £8 million by last April, are insignificant in relation to the sector's total funds of £1,797 million. With one unnamed college £1.5 million in deficit, however, the review demonstrates that individual financial difficulties are not confined to the universities.

A dispute over fee income from overseas students dating back to the institutions' transfer from local authority control is partly responsible for the deficits at Hatfield, Kingston and Middlesex polytechnics. Financial problems are more widespread in the colleges, more than a third of which finished 1989-90 in deficit.

The Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council said last night that the deficits were of a manageable size and none had been unexpected.

Children's freedom curbed by parents' fear of dangers

CHILDREN today enjoy less freedom than their parents and grandparents did beause of fears that they might be molested or hit by a car, a survey suggests.

The study found that only 9 per cent of seven and eight-year-olds went to school unaccompanied in 1990 compared with 80 per cent in 1971. Although most children now own bicycles, few are allowed to ride them on public roads.

The survey for the Policy Studies Institute, an independent research organisation, also found that the increase in parents' use of cars to transport children added to congestion and danger on the roads. The report said that in Germany more than half the seven-year-olds and four-fifths of eight-year-olds went to school unaccompanied.

German seven-year-olds were eight times more likely than British children to be allowed to cross roads alone but the death rate in the two countries was almost identical. In Britain, only 2 per cent of children aged seven to 11 and a quarter of those aged between 11 and 15 were allowed out alone at night.

On average, parents of junior school children made 23 journeys a week to escort them to and from school and for other purposes.

The findings were drawn from surveys in Islington, north London, Nottingham, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, Winchester, Hampshire, and Hook Norton and Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire. A similar survey was carried out in five areas of Germany.

One False Move... a Study of Children's Independent Mobility (BEBC Ltd, 0800-262260, or bookshops; £8)

A POLAR BEAR ON TOP OF THE WORLD
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Fears mount for legal aid after £90m rise in costs

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL aid spending this year will be nearly £90 million more than forecast, bringing the gross cost of the scheme to more than £800 million, according to government expenditure plans to be published next week.

The breakdown of the figures, to be outlined in the annual report of the Lord Chancellor's department, will come as a blow to both branches of the profession negotiating with the government for speedier payment for legal aid work. There were fears yesterday that the figures would mean further constraints; and that the legal aid scheme could become one of the first public spending victims of the Gulf war.

The figures come on top of tight Treasury control in the present round of legal aid pay talks between the profession and the government, in which the Bar and the Law Society have been offered 7 per cent from April 1. In the society's case, this is 0.5 per cent less than last year. Neither side has yet accepted the offer.

Nicholas Purnell, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, said: "The Treasury seems to be producing a stranglehold on the Lord Chancellor's department by raising the Gulf war."

According to the spending plans, the estimated outturn for 1990-1 for the Lord Chancellor's and the Law Officers' departments together is now £1,384 million, an increase of £117 million on the original estimate of £1,267 million. The departmental report will show that £97 million of that £117 million will go on the Lord Chancellor's department. Legal aid accounts for 90 per cent of the £97 million.

The figures will add a new edge to negotiations over reforms to the legal aid scheme. Both sides of the profession are feeling bruised over the lack of response by officials to proposals for speedier payment under the "payment on account" scheme, by which lawyers can receive interim payments in long-running civil cases.

The Bar wants payment after three months, not 18 months as now, and for 75 per cent of the fee earned instead of just over half as now. Mr Purnell said: "This would particularly help the young barristers. We are not asking for more money here; just speedier payment of the money we are owed."

Instead, officials have renewed efforts to curb legal aid costs through a package of other measures. They have proposed extending the range of cases in the crown court for which lawyers would be paid by a standard or fixed fee according to the type of case, instead of the present hourly rate. Standard fees have been brought in for simpler crown court cases but there is concern about extending them to a wider range of cases.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is also proposing a new kind of performance-based "pay as you go" scheme, by which lawyers would be paid at certain points, when they had completed designated stages of a case. Payment would depend on "adequate performance against standard criteria of time and cost".

Russell Wallman, a Law Society official, said: "We are happy to look at the proposal for a pay-as-you-go system. But we don't see why progress towards that should be used as an excuse not to do anything about improving the present payment on account scheme this April."



Smiles of life: Tamara Rainey, making a good recovery from a second liver transplant, is held by her mother Marina at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge.

Tamara, who had the 11-hour operation on her second birthday last Saturday, received a message of good wishes yesterday from the Duchess of York (John Shaw writes). In addition to hopes for a speedy recovery there was also a hand-drawn get well card from Princess Beatrice. They were among scores of good wishes at a belated party in a children's ward at the hospital.

Tamara's parents from north Belfast, nurses on the ward and members of the transplant team celebrated not only her birthday but also her remarkable recovery after the life-saving operation. She is now out of intensive care and "is really doing well, everything is looking good", the hospital said.

The child was becoming critically ill before she received the cut-down liver of a road accident victim.

Liver transplant centre to be opened in London

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER liver transplant centre is to open in London in April, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, announced yesterday. The centre, one of five nationally funded liver transplant units, will be based at the Royal Free hospital in Hampstead.

Although Mr Waldegrave has agreed to the development of liver transplant services, after an increase in demand, he has rejected applications for an expansion in the heart transplant programme and for central funding for a range of new specialist services.

Allocations for supra-regional services — those covering a wider area than one NHS region — will rise from £60 million this year to £97 million next year to reflect changes under the NHS reforms. Mr Waldegrave disclosed, however, that specialist services will be protected from the full impact of an internal market until at least April 1992.

He said that the extra funding was partly because the health service had failed accurately to cost the services in the past. After more sophisticated costing, the management executive found that specialist services cost £76 million last year, £16 million more than allocated. In addition, health authorities had usually made some financial contribution to local specialist services they used heavily.

The expansion in the liver transplant service comes after an acceleration in the number of operations performed over the past ten years, with success increasing and more organs becoming available. The health department said yesterday: "A further rise in central funding will be required in 1991-2 to provide for additional transplants and the follow-up of the expanding population of survivors."

Twenty-one transplants were carried out in 1982, rising to 241 in 1988 and 295 in 1989. The present designated centres are Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, King's College hospital, London, Queen Elizabeth hospital, Birmingham, and St James's university hospital, Leeds.



Waldegrave: praise for transplant programmes

Mr Waldegrave rejected 14 applications from hospitals wishing to become designated heart transplant centres, including Guy's hospital in London. The health department said, however, that an attempt to expand the transplant service at the Royal Brompton and national heart hospital in London may attract central funding.

An extra £4 million will be spent developing the heart and liver transplant programme. Mr Waldegrave said: "These programmes are among the best in the world and are still expanding." A further £2 million will go towards treating primary bone tumours and for heart surgery on babies.

In total, £21.1 million will be allocated for heart transplantation, £14.7 million for liver transplantation, £21.3 million for neonatal and infant cardiac surgery and £5.1 million for primary bone tumours. Although £21.3 million will be allocated centrally for spinal injury units next financial year, the government has decided to withdraw central funding in future years, maintaining that they should become a regional rather than a central responsibility.

Ministers to amend gay rights clause

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to amend part of the criminal justice bill that has been criticised by gay rights campaigners as part of a gradual recriminalisation of homosexuality.

John Patten, minister at the Home Office, is to introduce amendments to the bill to make clear that the legislation was not intended to discriminate between homosexual and heterosexual offences.

Yesterday's announcement by Mr Patten divided gay activist groups. The Stonewall group welcomed the proposal, but Outrage! said it feared the changes planned by the government would be merely "cosmetic".

The amendments will be to Clause 25 of the bill, which opponents claimed would lead to longer sentences for consenting homosexuals who became persistent offenders.

Mr Patten denied that the clause was aimed at increasing the penalties for consenting homosexual behaviour. In a letter to Robin Squire, Conservative MP for Hornchurch, he said: "The sentencing provisions of the bill have nothing to do with increasing the penalties for victimless homosexual offences, or indeed changing in any way the relative seriousness with which the law regards offences of a homosexual, as opposed to heterosexual, character. The bill creates no new sexual offences."

Mr Patten said he was concerned that the bill had been misconstrued and said he hoped that campaigners would be "reassured" by the amendment.



Patten: "The bill creates no new sexual offences"

Girl patient attacked

Police were seeking a man who indecently assaulted a girl aged eight yesterday as she lay in a bed at Tyrone County hospital, in Omagh. Two nurses in the nursery heard noises from the children's ward at about 3am, and, as they went to investigate, a man fled the ward.

The local RUC commander, Supt Jack Doonan, said that the girl had not been injured. The intruder was described as 6ft tall, slim and dark-haired, and wore a green jacket and trousers. He is thought to have a mole or scar beside the left eye.

Smuggling trial

The prosecution yesterday ended its case against Patricia Cahill, aged 17, of Birmingham, on trial in Thailand accused of trying to smuggle heroin. She is expected to testify on March 8.

Singer fined

Freddie Garrity, aged 55, from the Sixties pop group, Freddie and the Dreamers, was yesterday banned from driving for 28 days and fined £150 for speeding at 80mph in a 40mph zone at Leeds.

Killer jailed

Darren Ditchburn, aged 23, of Guidepost, Northumberland, who beat his wife's lover to death in an hour-long attack, was jailed for seven years by Newcastle upon Tyne crown court yesterday after being found guilty of manslaughter.

Oldest pit shuts

Britain's oldest pit, Bagworth colliery, Leicestershire, shut yesterday after 176 years.

Death driver

Lee Price, aged 18, of Lambeth, south London, who killed a woman on a crossing, and claimed his car had been stolen, was given 18 months' youths custody by the Central Criminal Court for causing death by reckless driving and trying to pervert justice.

Lowry stolen

An L.S. Lowry drawing, *Skater*, valued at £2,500 has been stolen from Shaw's gallery, Manchester.

Citizenship fees

The cost of applying to become a British citizen is to rise from March 1. The registration fee will go up from £60 to £85, and the fee for naturalisation on grounds of marriage from £60 to £135.

Life sentence

Frank Turpin, aged 21, of Woolwich, southeast London, was jailed for life by the Central Criminal Court for murdering a Vietnamese student in a motoring dispute.

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HUSAIN'S DILEMMA

Jordanians remain defiant despite US threat of aid cuts

From EDWARD GORMAN IN AMMAN AND RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

AMERICA's decision to review its aid to Jordan, after a speech by King Husain in which he strongly criticised the Gulf war, is not expected to prompt a change in Amman's policy on the conflict.

The Bush administration announced a review of military and economic assistance to Jordan after the king told his people in a television broadcast on Wednesday night that the war was a crime committed against all Arabs and Muslims.

In making another impassioned plea for a ceasefire, King Husain significantly stepped up his criticism of the allied coalition against Iraq. He accused the allies of having deliberately sought war, of having never given peace a chance, and of carrying out nothing short of the wholesale destruction of Iraqi civilisation and its people, actions which had taken them beyond the scope of United Nations resolutions on forcing Baghdad's forces out of Kuwait.

The king's speech heightened Israel's anxiety over Amman's support for Iraq in the war, and this worry was increased further yesterday when three infiltrators from Jordan attacked an Israeli army bus near the town of Eilat. The ambush was bungled and the gunmen were later all shot dead.

The attackers first threw a grenade, which failed to explode, then opened fire, slightly wounding four soldiers on the bus. The infiltrators escaped but were caught shortly after at a roadblock. They were killed in an exchange of fire with an Israeli patrol in which there were no Israeli casualties.

A police spokesman described the attempt at infiltration as a suicide attack which was apparently undertaken by Islamic fundamentalists.

The incident, in the Jordan Valley on the road between Jericho and the Red Sea, has added to Israeli concern that King Husain is losing control and may be fomenting Palestinian and Islamic fundamentalist feeling against Israel. One Israeli official said of King Husain's speech: "He is playing with fire."

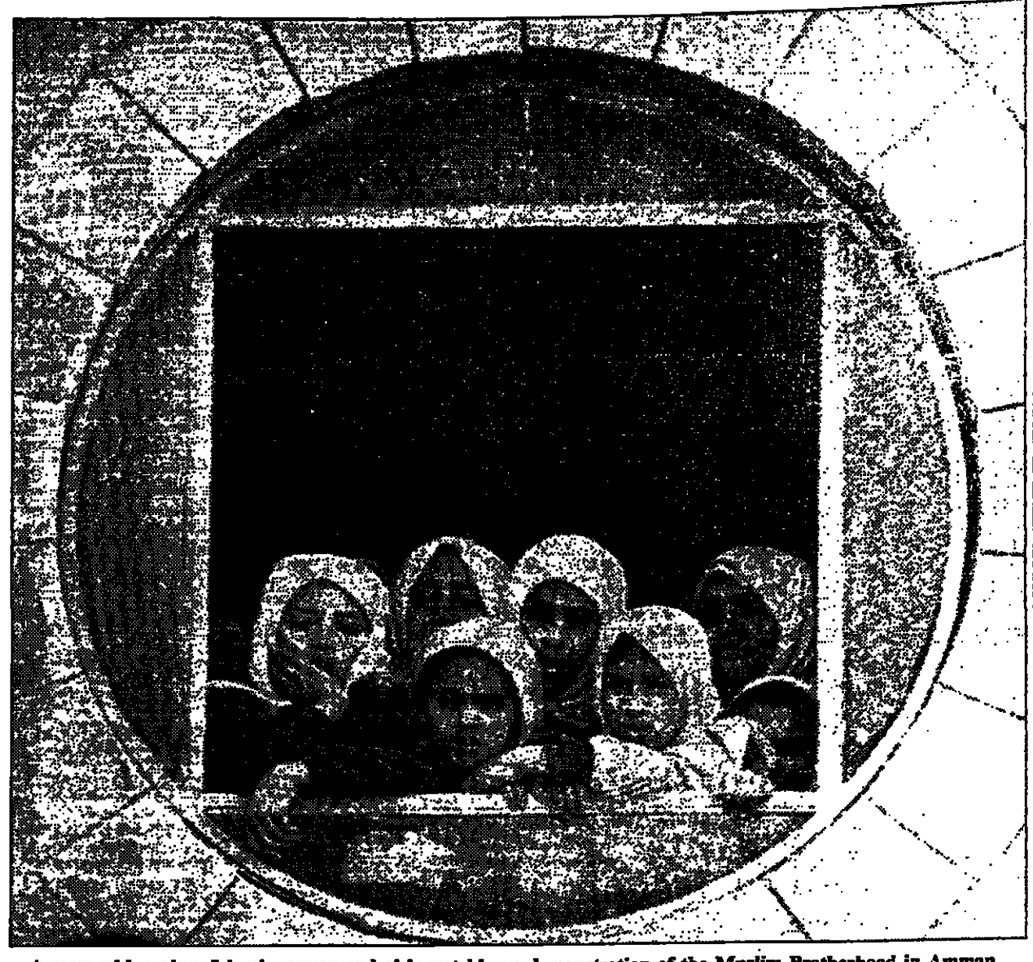
It is widely assumed that Israel will use Jordanian air space if it retaliates for Iraqi Scud missile attacks on its territory. Rehavam Zeevi, the controversial right-winger who joined the Israeli cabinet this week as a minister without portfolio, warned Jordan to "sit quietly" if Israel did attack Iraq. He said that if Amman were to intervene, it would "taste the flavour of the Israeli armed forces".

In his speech, King Husain gave a warning of what he claimed were plans by foreign powers to use the war as an opportunity to reassert their influence in the Middle East, and to create a new order in which Israel would be the main beneficiary. The Arabs, especially the Palestinians, would be the losers.

Reaction in Amman yesterday to America's decision to review its aid policy suggested that the king will not be deflected from what is regarded as his consistent policy: that war could have been avoided and that it should be stopped at the earliest opportunity. Waleed Tash, a former Jordanian foreign affairs secretary-general, described the aid review, affecting about $80 million (£40 million) in the 1992 fiscal year, as part of a continuing process of punishment for Amman which reflects Washington's inability to understand the king's position.

"I don't think our policy will change," Mr Tash declared. "Our policy has been clear from the first day of the crisis and history will show it was a sound one."

The aid review comes hard on the heels of the row between the allies and Amman over Jordan's continuing imports of Iraqi oil and the loss of at least eight Jordanian lorry drivers caught in allied bombing raids on the road from Baghdad.



A room with a view: Islamic women and girls watching a demonstration of the Muslim Brotherhood in Amman yesterday. Several hundred members marched in support of President Saddam Hussein

POSTWAR SECURITY

Bonn and London try different tacks

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

BRITAIN is now seeking to link with Germany to design a Middle East security system, to build confidence and encourage disarmament.

While the European Community argues about the theory of political union, Britain is concerned that there is still no cohesive future policy among members on how to confront the realities of the Gulf war. Britain is trying to take a lead in this, helping to forge a common EC policy and act as a link with America.

There is too little co-ordination at present. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his German counterpart, are making separate trips to Arab capitals over the next few days with different aims. Britain wants to open discussions on the postwar period. Germany seems more anxious to repair its own image in the Arab world. Mr Hurd will discuss the progress of the war and its aftermath with the emir of Kuwait in Saudi Arabia today.

He flew to Cairo yesterday for talks with President Mubarak of Egypt and other members of the Egyptian government and will then fly on to Riyadh. On his way back to London, he is scheduled to meet Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister.

Another important difference between German and British postwar attitudes is on the need for financial help. Britain argues that what is needed is agreement by the rich Arab nations such as Saudi Arabia to help poor ones such as Egypt. Germany is talking of a Marshall Plan for the Middle East, involving large cash and material transfers.



Hurd: discussions on the progress of war

Herr Genscher is visiting Damascus, Cairo and Amman where there has been strong criticism of the fact that Germany has agreed to supply Israel with weapons, including "sniffer" tanks for chemical warfare defence and two U-boats. Ministerial aides said yesterday that Herr Genscher would defend the decision to deliver these weapons on the ground that Germany had a special responsibility for Israel's existence.

However, these German additions to Israel's arsenal, made without consulting other members of the anti-Iraqi coalition, will complicate negotiations for a comprehensive peace settlement.

DIPLOMACY

UN chief changes his tone

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

UNITED Nations officials fear that, if the Gulf war drags on, the organisation will be blamed in the Muslim world for the large-scale loss of life. With a speedy end to the conflict in doubt, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, has begun to distance himself from the allied offensive to head off such criticism.

In the opening days of the military campaign to liberate Kuwait, he said that Iraq must "capitulate" and that he would co-operate with any attempt to hold war crimes trials. His comments provoked a furious response from Iraq. Tariq Aziz, the foreign minister, sent two letters blaming the secretary-general for the bombing of Iraq.

Soon after the first letter was sent, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar changed the tone of his public remarks. He told the BBC World Service that "this is not a UN war" and the security council had merely endorsed the right of Kuwait's allies to come to its assistance.

Since then he has written to Mr Aziz, repeating that he seeks "not surrender but the most honourable way of resolving a crisis".

MILITARY STRATEGY

Allies ponder logistics of mass Iraqi surrender

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ALLIED commanders have a difficult problem to resolve before the ground war begins: if large numbers of the Iraqi frontline forces decide to give up, despite orders from Baghdad to fight to the last man, how will they be able to do so, and how will the allies deal with so large a surrender?

These questions have become important because of what seems to be one of the underlying aims of the allied bombing campaign. Allied commanders must be hoping that the bombing will destroy whatever loyalty the regular forces have towards President Saddam Hussein.

At some point the Iraqi soldiers' hatred of the allies and their bombers, and their yearning for revenge, could turn towards their own leader. One Iraqi deserter was quoted as saying that all the allies needed to do was kill Saddam and the war would come to an end.

That turning point in Iraqi morale, if it is a real possibility, could come within the next week or so. On Thursday, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière, the British commander in the Gulf, said the Iraqi ground forces were about to experience a concentration of bombing beyond anything they had suffered so far. Tom King, the defence secretary, repeated that warning yesterday. Bombardment by hundreds of aircraft is certain to affect the fighting spirit of the weaker Iraqi divisions.

None of the regular divisions in southern Kuwait can be compared with the toughness and professionalism of the Republican Guard. Yet among them there are competent units which are expected to stand their ground. But other divisions, formed in haste by Saddam from Iraq's army reserves, could decide they have had enough and seek to surrender. Allied bombing during the next week will have to take this possibility into account.

The surrender of a whole division would have to involve the collusion, if not the incitement, of the divisional commanders. This cannot be ruled out. The loyalty of the senior Iraqi commanders in Kuwait is unknown. The odd Iraqi citizen in Baghdad has been seen shouting defiant devotion to Saddam in front of Western television cameras. Journalists have also detected a growing anti-Western feeling in the Iraqi capital and elsewhere. However, almost nothing is known about the Iraqi regular commanders in the theatre of operations. Their loyalty to Saddam has been taken for granted. But they and their men must be growing angry at the failure of their air force to provide any air cover.

If they know about the departure of more than 140 aircraft to Iran – recent deserters have said they listen to the BBC World Service, so they probably do – they must be wondering what is going on. Perhaps they are asking whether any Iraqi aircraft will be left to engage allied bombers once the ground war starts.

The suspected doubts of some Iraqi air commanders about the occupation of Kuwait and the prospects of a ground war could be shared by their army counterparts. But if army commanders decide that neither Kuwait nor Saddam is worth dying for, it would invite slaughter for troops to emerge from their bunkers during this phase of the bombing campaign.

This is why the bombardment of the frontline ground forces will have to vary in intensity. If Iraqi soldiers were to wait for a lull in the bombing, they might find it possible to surrender.

The surrender of all the Iraqi forces after an allied victory in Kuwait raises even more difficult questions. Assuming that Saddam does not withdraw his troops before the ground war begins, or soon after it has started, victory for the allies would necessitate a complex disarming process.

Provided allied forces have succeeded in encircling the Iraqi troops, it should be possible to prevent the return to Iraq of any of the tanks and heavy weaponry which have dramatically changed the landscape of Kuwait. If this is practical, the aftermath of the war promises to be as difficult in terms of military management as the diplomatic and political challenge facing the coalition governments.

Enquiry into deaths of agents

Washington – The Senate intelligence committee is to investigate claims that information shared between America and Syria in the course of cementing the alliance against President Saddam Hussein may have led to the deaths of Western undercover agents inside a Syrian-based terror group (Peter Stothard writes).

The deaths of the agents, which occurred in November soon after President Bush held talks in Switzerland with President Assad of Syria, have been kept a close secret. The White House has refused to comment but Senator David Boren, Chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, told *The New York Times* that if the connection between the deaths and the diplomatic accord were true "it would represent a tragic and indefensible compromise of our intelligence resources and a breach of faith with those who have risked their lives on our behalf".

The agents were reportedly Palestinians who had joined one of Syria's many terror groups on behalf of either the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, or other Western intelligence forces.

Palestinian aid

Brussels – The European Community has announced that it is sending more food to Palestinians in the occupied territories. The move – bringing the total value of aid given over the past three weeks to £22 million – follows shortages caused by the Gulf war curfew in the West Bank and Gaza. The European Commission is also wrestling with a plea by foreign ministers for larger-scale aid.

Lebanese dig in

Jbaa, southern Lebanon – Lebanese troops have begin consolidating positions and patrolling right at the edge of Israeli lines in southern Lebanon one day after Palestinian and Lebanese Muslim guerrillas gave up all of their military bases southeast of Sidon without firing a single shot.

Error on slick

London – Fears that the world's largest desalination plant is in imminent danger from a huge oil slick in the Gulf may have been greatly exaggerated. Lieutenant-Commander Paul Milligan of the US Coast Guard said aerial photographs showed that the leading edge of the slick, the smaller of two, is 40 to 60 miles from the town rather than the 10 miles and "closing fast" estimated by the Saudis.

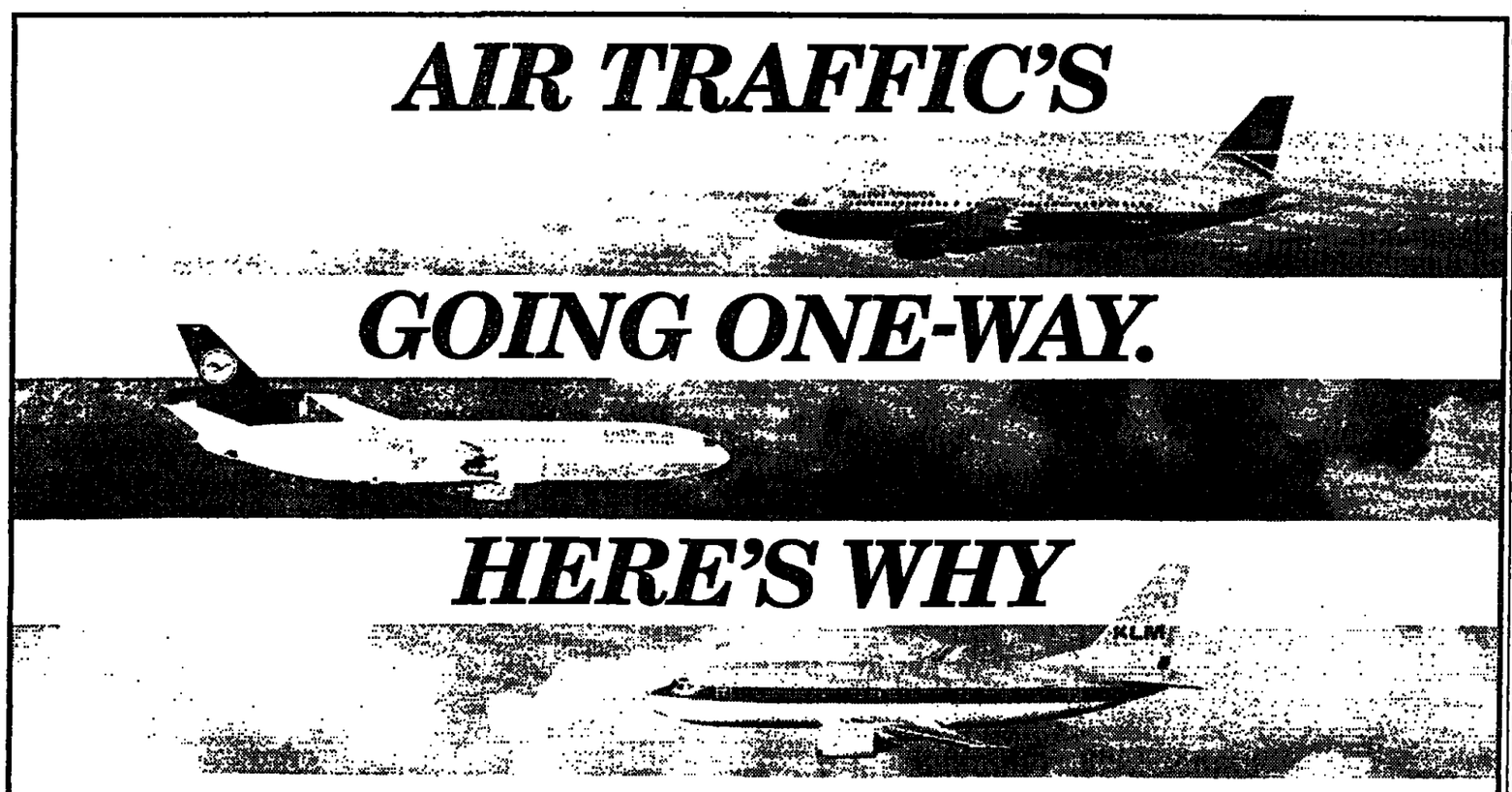
Hassan resists

Rabat – King Hassan of Morocco is resisting mounting pressure to bring home the 1,300 troops he contributed to the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia in August, by saying they are there to protect the kingdom and not to attack Iraq. The king, who celebrates 30 years on the throne next month, was forced to give his approval last Sunday to an unprecendented pro-Iraqi march. *(Reuter)*

Turkish blast

Istanbul – A bomb exploded in the garden of the headquarters of Nato's Sixth Allied Tactical Air Forces in Izmir, shattering windows but causing no injuries. An extremist group, Dev-Sol (the Revolutionary Left) said it carried out the attack in protest against the Gulf war. Dev-Sol also claimed responsibility for the murder on Thursday of an American working at the Incirlik airbase. *(Reuter)*

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CCF will route aircraft through one-way 'tunnels in the sky', and because it uses more sophisticated equipment and smoothes the controllers' workload by reducing the need for co-ordination, more aircraft will be handled while maintaining safety standards.

CCF Stage 1, a new Operations Room at the London Centre which manages air traffic going to and from London's major airports, has just gone operational.

This is just part of the CAA's £750 million programme to make sure that the capacity to handle air travellers goes only one way.

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WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 23

ALLIED FORCES

Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, arrived in Cairo for talks with Egyptian leaders. Richard Cheney, US defence secretary, and General Colin Powell, chairman of US joint chiefs of staff, arrived in Saudi Arabia to discuss strategy.

LOSSES: Thirty allied troops have been killed in action, including 12 Americans and 18 Saudis. Twenty-two Americans are listed as non-combat deaths. Allies have listed 43 missing in action, including 25 Americans, eight British and one Italian and 12 prisoners of war, two British. Allies have lost 27 planes, 21 in combat – 14 American, five British, one Kuwaiti and one Italian.

CLAIMS: Tom King, the defence secretary, said Iraq's "battle-winning equipment" were reduced by 15-20 per cent. Iraqi ground forces would be quickly and systematically destroyed as the allies stepped up their aerial bombardment. Iraq's nuclear research and production had been almost totally destroyed, while chemical and biological facilities were "severely damaged". A further 13 Iraqi planes have flown to Iran, taking total to 147, the US said. Allies have destroyed more than 600 Iraqi tanks and 35 Iraqi planes have been shot down. Royal Navy helicopter destroyed Iraqi gunboat off Kuwait.

IRAQI FORCES

CLAIMS: Iraq says it shot down three allied planes in 192 raids on its territory in the past 24 hours. It asked the UN to send a mission to determine whether a bombed Iraqi factory produced children's milk or bacteriological weapons, as the US claims.

ALLIED WAR AIMS

UN Security Council resolution 678 authorises Kuwait's allies to "use all necessary means" to uphold previous resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and its government's restoration. It also calls on the nations assisting Kuwait "to restore international peace and security in the area".

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Days of destruction, frustration and kindness under siege

The atmosphere in Baghdad is something akin to that of London during the Blitz, Richard Beeston, now in Amman, writes after a nine-day visit to Iraq. His war diary shows the Iraqis to be a resolute people, but discontent is growing



Thursday, January 31 The border town of Rutba is not the sort of place to which a visitor would gladly return. The dust and squalor of the concrete shops and houses set in the flat, inhospitable landscape have combined to make it one of the least attractive towns in Iraq. However, it was impossible to suppress a sense of relief when our car containing four Iraqi soldiers and one British journalist finally arrived at the first army checkpoint there.

The thought of how an Iraqi journalist hitch-hiking a lift with four British soldiers outside Aldershot might feel offered no comfort as the local head of the secret police was summoned from his billet. The problem was how to deal with a foreigner found stranded by the side of the road the Pentagon calls "Scud Alley", who claimed to have had a car accident on his way to Baghdad but who looked suspiciously like a shot-down pilot with an unbelievable story.

It is a sad irony that Iraqis generally like Westerners and treat them with courtesy and hospitality. The four soldiers did not flinch when they were told to drive 500 miles out of their way and deliver me safely to Baghdad.

Friday If the standards at the al-Rasheed Hotel, Iraq's premier five-star establishment, are any measure of the collapse of the country's ability to function, Iraq is in more trouble than most people suspect. The once extensive menu has been reduced to a set meal of dubious-looking meat and vegetables, a sorry salad and for dessert a biscuit covered in chocolate sauce, all for £45 with a bottle of local beer for £15.

However, the problem of food shortages is small compared with the ordeal of washing. Although the al-Rasheed has succeeded in organising one hour a day of running water, all of it is ice-cold. Brushing teeth is a new-found luxury and shaving an unpleasant but rewarding experience, but having a bath is torture.

Saturday The Iraqis seem finally to have mastered the careful manipulation of the press through a system of censorship and control which leaves journalists virtually unable to get the full picture of what is going on in the country. Coaches wait like commuter buses every morning outside the hotel for the daily "civilian destruction" trips which take journalists to all areas of the country in search of demolished houses and witnesses with tales of wanton killing by the allies.

Although these stories do make up an important part of the coverage of the war, journalists are unable to address the key questions of what is going on in the minds of the Iraqi leadership, and the capability of the armed forces.

Today we visit the town of Diwaniyeh, where civilian targets such as the market, offices and houses have been flattened. What we are not allowed to report, however, are the increasingly regular sightings along the route of squadrons of tanks and armoured personnel carriers and ammunition dumps camouflaged in palm groves, frequently located next to farms and villages.

Sunday From the time a report is written it is a three-hour operation to send it back to London. The first and most arduous task is to have it read by the censor who, for English-speaking journalists, is the large and affable Sadoun Al-Janabi, a British-trained official from the Ministry of Information, whose normally cheerful composure turns distinctly sour when he begins reading my reports.

Instead of cutting the articles, he genuinely tries to make helpful suggestions on how the wording could be altered to remove or disguise criticisms of the regime, references to the Iraqi military and pejorative adjectives which might reflect badly on the country, such as a description of the hotel as "smelly". Journalists quickly develop means of circumventing the system. Among the favoured techniques are putting particularly offensive decoy paragraphs in reports, which will undoubtedly be deleted, in the hope of saving less contentious passages.

Monday For the first time we are permitted to leave in small groups to tour the city and discover that in spite of the hardships the Iraqi people are proving to be a resolute race. The city is dotted with landmarks of destruction and an eerie black cloud hangs over the capital from tyres burning at strategic locations, which the Iraqis believe will confuse allied reconnaissance and make targets harder to hit. There is some of the atmosphere of London during the Blitz but, in whispered interviews with a number of dissatisfied Iraqis, it becomes obvious that civilian discontent is growing.

Tuesday Although there is no communication with the outside world, a number of news organisations have brought in satellite telephones, set up in the hotel grounds where correspondents can dictate their stories under the supervision of Iraqi officials. Queues of journalists wait their turn. Arguments can break out simultaneously in a variety of languages between British, Algerian, Turkish and Austrian reporters. The competition has little to do with deadlines, because Iraq is three hours ahead of GMT. Instead, as night falls, the problem is to dictate one's report before the evening air raid begins.

Wednesday No Iraqi in his right mind would want to head south unless he has a compelling reason. When we reach the city of Kut, we find the bridge linking the two halves of the city has been destroyed by the allies. We have to make an 80-mile detour past an air base whose reinforced concrete hangars have received direct hits despite the presence of several batteries of surface-to-air missiles.

Our destination is further south, the city of Nasseriya, where the air bombardment is so frequent that civil defence does not even bother to warn the population with air-raid sirens. A military convoy on the outskirts of the city has been shot up minutes before our arrival. Most of the casualties appear to have been civilians caught among military vehicles. Elsewhere, houses, pedestrians and civilian motorists have been hit by air strikes intended to knock out bridges and other strategic sites. **Thursday** For those of us leaving the following day, the last dinner in Baghdad is like sitting in the restaurant of the Titanic knowing we have places reserved in the lifeboats. The Iraqi officials, many of whom have become close friends, make pleas for batteries, torches and provisions that we will leave behind. Most, however, just want to know what is happening beyond the sealed borders of their country.

Friday The wake-up knock at 4am is followed within seconds by the sound of a heavy bombardment on the western outskirts of the city, marked by the tracer of anti-aircraft fire and the white flashes of bomb explosions. This inauspicious start to our journey is made worse when our driver loses his way in Baghdad. He regains our confidence later when he manages to find a bridge over the Euphrates that is still intact.

Sun rises at seven over a dirty black cloud from the fire at the fuel storage tanks in the town of Ramadi. Apart from a steady stream of military vehicles, the odd refugee bus and the luckless Jordanian tanker drivers, there is little traffic on the road to Jordan. Remains of destroyed vehicles, most of them military, litter the roadside.

MILITARY BRIEFING

King says allies have knocked out a fifth of Iraq's key equipment

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AS MUCH as 20 per cent of Iraq's "battle-winning equipment" has been wiped out by allied bombers, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday. Six hundred of the 4,200 Iraqi tanks in the theatre of operations had been destroyed, he said.

Mr King, who has previously been reluctant to give percentage figures for bomb damage, gave a detailed breakdown of the disruption of Iraq's military infrastructure. He spoke as Richard Cheney, his American counterpart, and General Colin Powell, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, arrived in Saudi Arabia to be briefed on the timing of an allied land campaign.

Mr King said the new phase of bombing, concentrating on Iraqi ground forces in Kuwait, would see the present figure of 15 to 20 per cent of destroyed equipment move rapidly up. One of the eight Republican Guard divisions in Kuwait had lost half of its fighting capability, making it impossible for it to operate effectively.

Of the 500 top-grade Iraqi aircraft, more than a hundred had flown to Iran. Another 100 had been destroyed in the air or on the ground, and 60 had been trapped in their hardened shelters. About only 240 remained, some of which were not serviceable. Others had been towed off airfields and hidden in villages.

Mr King told a news conference in London that Iraq's nuclear research and production capability had been almost totally destroyed and that its chemical and biological weapons research and production capability had been severely damaged and stocks substantially cut.

Half of Iraq's oil-refining capacity had been destroyed, he said, and the national grid was "broken". Transport feeder routes to Kuwait had been halved, internal and international telecommunications had been severely damaged, and water supplies were limited because of lack of power, he added.

Mr King, who will visit Washington next week with Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig, chief of the defence staff, to be briefed on the timing of the land war, also announced that another half squadron of Buccaneers was being sent to Saudi Arabia to help with precision bombing by RAF Tornado GR1s.

He said that the growing allied awareness of the size of Iraq's military infrastructure confirmed "the reality of why this is a necessary conflict". Some of Iraq's airfields were almost three times the size of Heathrow airport. The Samarra chemical plant, near Baghdad, covered 30 square miles, and one of the country's many ammunition sites covered a similar area and had 1,000 individual bunkers.

Mr Cheney, speaking at Shannon in the Irish Republic on his way to the Gulf, appeared yesterday to be trying to cool speculation that President Bush might soon order a ground offensive because of unrest in Muslim states over the devastation inflicted by three weeks of bombing of Iraq. He said the views of Western and Arab coalition allies would be considered, but the military equation would take precedence in deciding how to force President Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.

Keeping American casualties low would take top priority in deciding when to launch a ground offensive. "That has to be the number one priority, and it will figure very prominently in the recommendations we make to the president," Mr Cheney said.

American aircraft yesterday destroyed a Scud launcher in southern Iraq after a missile was fired at Riyadh, the Saudi capital. The Scud itself was destroyed by an American Patriot missile. Other aircraft attacked and damaged three Scud launchers in western Iraq, from where missiles have been fired over Jordan into Israel.

A Royal Navy helicopter destroyed an Iraqi gunboat off Kuwait. US marines also fired artillery at suspected Iraqi positions in Kuwait in the first ground fighting along the Saudi-Kuwaiti border for four days.

The commander of Saudi forces in the Gulf said yesterday that Saddam had set up an execution battalion to stop desertions among his troops in occupied Kuwait. Lieutenant-General Khalid bin Sultan, quoting Iraqi deserters who had escaped across the Saudi Arabian border, said that most Iraqi troops wanted to desert but were afraid of trying.

"There is what they call an execution battalion which they have between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi border," he said.

Letters, page 11

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Pilot flies 2,000 hours in Tornado

From LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

SQUADRON Leader Gordon Buckley could see clearly the four surface-to-air missiles aimed to knock him out of the sky as he passed 2,000 hours flying time in his Tornado GR1 bomber.

Flying in formation with a flight of allied planes surrounding him, he was fairly confident he would be protected and return to base in a few hours to the handshakes and congratulations. As he flew into the target, electronic countermeasure systems on board told him the missiles were on their way. "I looked out and I could see four of them coming up at me. They came up, first one, then another, within 10 to 15 seconds of each other," he said as he climbed from the aircraft.

The fear and concentration pushed from his mind that he was about to become only the second RAF pilot to have clocked up 2,000 hours in a Tornado. "I was flying along when Paddy called out 'Congratulations Buckers'. I looked out and saw the Sams. They were going to miss because I could see the trails, but I thought to myself, what the heck is all this?" Flight Lieutenant Paddy Teakle, the navigator on the flight, was the first to slap him on the back when they landed after smashing one end of a bridge, in a mission conducted with pinpoint precision through the laser guided system on the accompanying RAF Buccaneer. Wing Commander John Broadbent, who leads the Tornados, taxied in later and crossed the apron to present a specially carved badge to commemorate the occasion. Lest Squadron Leader Buckley, aged 39, forget, the figure 2,000 was written in Arabic to show it was achieved in the Gulf. It took Squadron Leader Buckley eight years to reach the tally, a figure surpassed only by Squadron Leader Gordon Rekkie, an instructor at a British RAF base.

Most crews on the mission gave graphic descriptions of the increasing surface-to-air missile attacks they are now facing. Flight Lieutenant Mike Toft said: "There were a few flying telegraph poles around today. It's quite hairy out there."

Tandem missions by Tornados and Buccaneers have proved successful, especially since the manouevres had not been practised by most air crews during training.



Buckley: could see four missiles coming up

Destroying bridges raises the prospect of civilian casualties, but most of the pilots have found a way to cope. It is a problem they balance with the risk to their own lives, always at the forefront of their minds since the start of Desert Storm when three Tornados from the largest RAF detachment in the Gulf were lost in three days.

"The last couple of missions we have had some rockets come up at us, but it's a bit like being Madonna up there. We've got so many minders around us, if they try anything down below they just get hammered into the ground," said Squadron Leader Tony Lunnon-Wood, a New Zealander.

"You're wetting yourself, but you try and let the guy in the back know what's happening, keeping his confidence up. At the moment we have been lucky, but it's a tremendous effort and it is nice to see the end result."

He realises that there may be civilians on the bridge when the bombs hit. "You just shut that out. It's not very pleasant, but hopefully you're minimising the damage to innocents. I've got no buch about the people in Iraq. There's one guy who is the problem among them. We can't get at him, I wish we could. But you just shut it out. If you don't you couldn't hack it."

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)



Action replay: a pilot of the Royal Kuwait Airforce recounting to colleagues yesterday the details of a successful dog fight with an Iraqi plane during a bombing raid over their homeland

FRONT LINE

Coalition prepares to give PoWs four-star treatment

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER NEAR THE SAUDI-KUWAIT BORDER

AS RICHARD Cheney, the American defence secretary, and General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday for briefings on the timing of a land offensive, allied men and equipment — including facilities for holding up to 100,000 Iraqi prisoners of war — were still being rushed through swirling sandstorms to the front.

Among the thousands of artillery shells, tanks, bridge building equipment and medical supplies in the stream of convoys were requisitioned civilian buses which will be used to ferry the expected flood of PoWs back to rear lines and vast quantities of razor-sharp concertina wire which will be used to surround the camps where they will be first held.

Scores of heavy trucks carrying the despised United States combat rations, the Meals Ready to Eat, were also in the convoys heading north to provide immediate sustenance to Iraqis willing to lay down their arms. Many are known to be poorly fed. US Marines close to the border have also been stockpiling tons of rice and beans.

A genuine effort appears to be underway to provide defecting and captured Iraqis with four-star treatment. Allied forces said yesterday they would attempt to distribute gas masks to all Iraqi soldiers captured to protect them against their own poisonous weapons. Many frontline Iraqi troops are understood to be carrying their own masks and will be allowed to keep them when taken captive. Others, particularly reservists, are more sparcely equipped and would be found protective gear, said Captain David Beggs, assistant logistics chief with the Second Brigade of the crack US 82nd Airborn Division.

Much allied effort has been put into the reception being prepared for the PoWs, who are expected to start arriving in large numbers once ways have been cut through the mine fields that now cut off their forward positions in Kuwait from Saudi territory. "Psychologically and militarily, the arrival of large numbers will be a great plus for us," an American officer said.

"We are set on treating our prisoners nicely," said Staff Sergeant Mark Granas, a military police squad leader from Oregon. "They will be getting treated better with us than where they are now in terms of food and medical care."

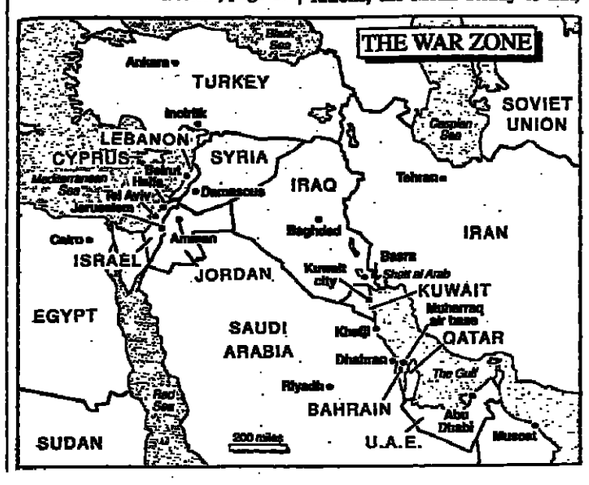
As of last night, 936 PoWs were acknowledged by the Saudis to be in allied custody. Western sources said that many had provided useful intelligence about both the organisation of Iraqi defences in Kuwait and the poor morale of many of the troops based there. Colonel John Easton, commanding officer of the civil affairs unit of the US Second Marine Division, said that many of Iraq's frontline troops appeared to be draftees, many of whom had only just returned home from fighting the eight-year war with Iran when they were ordered to Kuwait.

The PoWs have reported that the unending allied bombing attacks and scarcity of food along Iraqi front lines have begun taking their toll on morale and discipline. But Colonel Easton said it was not yet known how representative disaffected troops, described by the Saudis as "military refugees", were of the Iraqi army.

Marine commanders were heartened this week when six Iraqis risked their lives in a Land-Rover to drive through extensive defensive berms and surrender. Two were officers, taken as an indication that disaffection was spreading up through Iraqi ranks.

"I think that the reason we do not have more PoWs is because the war has not come this far south and we have not gone that far north," said Colonel Easton, aged 47, from Virginia. "I expect that situation to change."

Among American forces on the ground, enthusiasm to get on with a land assault is apparent at every turn. "I would like to tell the two of them to get on with it and get it over with," said Staff Sergeant Charles Skarda, a US combat engineer, regarding the talks in Riyadh between the US top brass and Richard Cheney, the defence secretary and General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. A final decision on dates will be taken by President Bush.



WEST BANK

Curfews add to misery of missile attacks

From RICHARD OWEN IN DEIR QUADIS, OCCUPIED WEST BANK

FROM Arab villages high on the hills of the West Bank you can see the tower blocks of Tel Aviv on the distant Israeli coastline. These Palestinian villages, near the "green line", are where Iraqi missiles land when they fall short.

But the Palestinians feel as much, if not more, bitterness about the curfews they have endured for the past three weeks as they do about the missiles. "On the one hand we are persecuted by the Israelis, and on the other we may be killed by missiles from Saddam, whom we hoped would give us free Palestine," one villager said. "We are always the losers, always caught in the middle."

On Tuesday the Israeli authorities began lifting the curfews during daylight hours in parts of the occupied territories, including Hebron, Kalkilya, Bethlehem and rural areas of Gaza. During the strict curfews, Palestinians have been allowed out occasionally to buy food and medicine. Permits are obtained from the Israeli authorities by village elders.

Israeli life has returned to normal despite the continuing risk of attacks, because, according to General Nachman Shai, the Israeli army spokesman, "you cannot keep people indoors forever". But Palestinians are being confined to their homes, General Shai says, because pro-Iraqi feeling in the territories could give rise to disruptive demonstrations; because Palestinians may follow orders "from outside" and commit acts of terrorism; and because Israelis, incensed that Palestinians have cheered Iraqi missiles on their way to Tel Aviv, may take revenge by attacking Arabs.

Shmuel Goren, the senior Israeli official in the occupied territories, acknowledged that Palestinians were under "very heavy pressure". He said he hoped Palestinians would realise that their support for President Saddam Hussein had "brought them nothing." Palestinians, however, see no "linkage" between their support for Saddam and suspicions about their behaviour inside Israel. "I have six children and I need to work to feed them," said Ibrahim, a building worker. Ibrahim's children, barefoot or in sandals, watched timidly from the house. "If I go to earn money, is it likely I would start stabbing Jews on the street?"

The curfews are also damaging Israel's economy, which is deprived of the Arab workers who normally pick the fruit and vegetable crops and build the houses. Ariel Sharon, the housing minister, and Rafael Eitan, the agriculture minister, both hardliners on the Arab question, want the curfews eased. The Israeli building industry is operating at a loss of $7 million (£3.5 million) a day, and 800,000 tonnes of ripe citrus fruit are rotting on the bough.

A further official Israeli argument is that most Palestinians do not have gas masks, and would be at risk if caught in Israel during a chemical weapons attack. I watched as gas-mask distribution to Palestinians got under way at an army camp. Palestinians saw no paradox in demanding that the Israelis give them gas masks while at the same time urging Saddam to fire chemical weapons, which might easily fall on the West Bank as well as on Tel Aviv.

Israeli officials yesterday said that Arab workers would be allowed to begin returning to work in Israel tomorrow, but would only be allowed to stay during the daytime.

Pretoria weighs up power-sharing deal with black parties

From GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's ruling National Party is considering detailed plans to share power this year with the African National Congress and other parties presently excluded from parliament.

One option would be a committee of about six political leaders, drawn from the principal participants in forthcoming constitutional negotiations, to be given informal, high-level input into government policy-making. While the committee would not have executive authority, it could act as an influential advisory body during the transition to multiracial democracy. In addition to the Nationalists and the ANC, the panel was likely to include the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, the liberal Democratic Party, and, if it wishes, the far-right Conservative Party.

Pretoria is also open to suggestions on how to accommodate the views of other powerful organisations such as Cosatu, the country's biggest black trade union federation. The idea is to encourage the various parties to work together during the negotiation phase to resolve problems as they arise without confrontation. In a sense, it would be a trial run for coalition politics in the post-apartheid era.

Another apparent objective is to circumvent ANC demands for an interim government, which Pretoria refuses to countenance. By opening a back door to policy-making, the government evidently hopes to dissuade the ANC from breaking down the front door. President de Klerk said last week that arrangements could be made to give the leaders of the negotiating parties a say in policy formulation at legislative and executive levels, but did not elaborate.

The committee is only one element of a complex power-sharing formula which could evolve this year. In the first instance, a panel is envisaged of independent "wise men" to help get the concept off the ground. Possible members included Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, a former liberal politician, and Oscar Dhlomo, a former Inkatha leader, both of whom now head institutes promoting democracy.

Such a panel could then act as a steering committee for a multiparty congress, which Pretoria and the ANC wish to see take place this year. Pretoria has a confidential list of between 15 and 25 groups which it anticipates might participate in the conference. The next stage would be a full constitution-making conference, which clearly would "impact" on government policy during its negotiations.

Pretoria also envisages a role for independent consultants, possibly including experts from overseas, to guide the various committees and conferences through the legislative process. But Mr de Klerk and his cabinet remain firmly opposed to any Westminster-style "winner takes all" system, which they believe would lead inevitably to black majority rule without safeguards for minorities.

The president is also resolved to deny the South African Communist Party, the ANC's principal political ally, any chance of power. Sources say that while he is prepared to accept the Communists at the negotiating table, he will be resolutely opposed to them in future elections.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, appears to be aware of possible disadvantages in continuing the incestuous relationship with the SACP, which has a large representation on the ANC national executive committee. At a recent press conference, he said he expected the ANC and the Communists would have separate seats at the constitutional negotiations.

It remains to be seen whether *limited* power-sharing will be acceptable to the ANC and its allies, which still insist on the Nationalists handing over power to an interim, multiracial government. Much will depend on the persuasive talents of the "wise men", and Mr Mandela's room for manoeuvre in his impatient constituency.

Any such deal would invoke the wrath of the old-guard Conservative leadership. But sources say that younger and more pragmatic party members may be persuaded to join the process to promote the interests of right-wing Afrikaners. They will not, however, include members of the police force. Adriaan Vlok, the minister of law and order, said yesterday that he would be introducing legislation this year to prohibit police from being members of any party.

● **WASHINGTON:** The foreign minister of South Africa, R.F."Pik" Botha, said yesterday he hoped America and other nations would give economic aid to help blacks once apartheid is dismantled.

Mr Botha said on television that eliminating segregation laws would not help anyone unless the new policies are underpinned by economic growth. He said he believed South Africa was in a good position to help its black majority but that he hoped for outside aid. *(Reuter)*

Leading article, page 11



Identified flying object: an Argentinian policeman with a fragment of the Salyut-7 Soviet space station after it broke up on entering the atmosphere

Ecology 'disaster' in Soviet Union

From ROBERT SEELY IN MOSCOW

SOVIET scientists and ecologists said yesterday that 16 per cent – 1,382,000 square miles – of the Soviet Union was an "ecological disaster area". Despite the huge oil slicks in the Gulf, the scientists claimed the scale of the problems in the Soviet Union was worse.

Four regions – apart from the radioactive area around the Chernobyl nuclear power station – were of special concern, including Leningrad where they claimed there was a danger of a "bacterial epidemic" as a result of a project to ring the nearby Neva Bay with a series of dams and water gates to prevent flooding. The other areas were the Caspian Sea and its environs, the Aral Sea – a *cause célèbre* for Soviet environmentalists – and the Volga Basin.

Boris Vinogradov, a member of the Academy of Scientists, said: "By the middle of last year 12 per cent of the Soviet Union was an ecological disaster area. Now our diagrams show that it is 16 per cent." In some areas of the Volga basin, he said, "desertification was on a larger scale than in the Aral Sea".

Ecologist Aleksei Yablokov said: "The crisis in the Gulf is caused by oil, but the amount of oil spilt into the Earth in the Tyumen oil-producing region in the last few years is greater than the Gulf. There is a danger the world is going to forget the crisis here."

Many other affected areas are in a belt running from Moscow in the east along the Mongolian border, with major Siberian river basins badly polluted. Almost a quarter of the Soviet Unions's 300 million population are living in polluted areas.

Although projects to minimise the damage to the Aral Sea and parts of the Volga Basin had begun, the scientists dismissed the efforts because they were being supervised by government departments which had been responsible for the problems. "Some projects are a state crime. In many cases the so-called restoration work is being carried out by the very people who spent billions of roubles destroying these regions. I don't trust them," said Sergei Zalygin, a supreme Soviet deputy and chairman of the ecology and peace group.

Video of guerrilla chief on Peru TV

Lima – Peruvians have had their first sight in more than a decade of the mysterious Shining Path guerrilla leader. Portions of a video tape showing Abimael Guzman were broadcast during a televised speech by President Fujimori on Thursday night.

The 25-minute tape, seized during a police raid, provided the first solid evidence Señor Guzman is alive since he went underground to launch a Maoist insurgency in 1980. The amateurish video showed a bearded Señor Guzman dancing and celebrating with friends in what looked like a middle-class living room.

"This discovery shows the type of life these pseudo-revolutionaries lead ... here you see them in a vulgar party," Señor Fujimori said during a speech broadcast over a few minutes of the silent video. The president said that Señor Guzman, a former professor of philosophy, was seen "in a complete state of drunkenness, about to fall over". *(Reuter)*

Basque arrest

Biarritz – Xavier Monterola, a Basque militant sought by police after an attempt to bomb an estate agent's office last week, has been arrested. Police say that he remains close to Philippe Bidart, the alleged leader of the French Basque terrorist group Iparretarrek, arrested in 1987 and now on trial. *(AP)*

Reserve ablaze

Bogotá – Fire is sweeping through a world-renowned Colombian nature reserve that is a haven for many rare animals and plants. The fire, which began last weekend, has destroyed 178,000 acres, about a tenth of the Sierra de la Macarena reserve, and is still burning, officials said. Its cause is unknown. *(Reuter)*

Rebels attacked

Bangkok – Cambodia said it had launched counter-attacks against non-communist guerrillas on the country's north-western fringes, destroying two tanks and killing 85 fighters. The Khmer People's National Liberation Front and rebels loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk said that they lost 13 soldiers. *(Reuter)*

Cancer scare

Brussels – Illegal dumping of toxic waste has led to a scare in the Belgian village of Mellery, near here, after blood tests showed residents had been exposed to high levels of benzene and other fumes that promote cancer. The health ministry said the tests, on 51 people, had revealed cell abnormalities. *(Reuter)*

Yes, ex-minister

Peking – Chinese television is about to screen its version of *Yes, Minister*, the British comedy series. The minister is to be played by Ying Ruocheng, who was asked to leave his post as deputy culture minister when hardliners regained the upper hand after the mass killings of June 4, 1989.

Artist rebuffed

Annapolis, Maryland – A painting in which five prominent people are depicted nude, including Margaret Thatcher, was withdrawn from a college exhibition after complaints. The artist, Josef Schuetzenhoefer, said that the picture, entitled *Capitalism is Dead*, was meant as political comment. *(AP)*

Slovenes join Croat protest

From RICHARD BASSETT IN ZAGREB

SLOVENE delegates walked out of a crucial Yugoslav presidency meeting in Belgrade yesterday shortly after the Croatian government had boycotted it. Both delegations left because of a Serbian demonstration against Croatia taking place in Belgrade at the same time.

The meeting, the third of a series, is seen as presenting the only forum for peaceful discussion on Yugoslavia's future. Croatia and Slovenia hope to gain independence by the end of the year.

Both republics wish to achieve this peacefully, but are increasingly wary of what they see as Serbian and Yugoslav army tactics to intimidate them. Slovenia no longer believes it has any future in Yugoslavia, even if the country evolved into the loose confederation favoured until recently by Croatia. Bracing itself for further Yugoslav army intervention, Croatia is now equally convinced that its future lies outside Yugoslavia.

Franjo Tudjman, Croatia's leader, sent a telegramme to President Jovic, who is a Serb and who has used the presidency to impose Serbian decisions, to say that he would not attend because of a demonstration in Belgrade staged by the Movement of Serbian Women which was branding him as a cryptofascist.

Milan Kucan, the Slovene president, walked out of the meeting after it became apparent that the shouting from several thousand women demanding the resignation of the Slovene and Croatian governments, would prevent any further discussion.

As Croatians arm themselves in preparation for some form of military showdown, few observers here believe that the Serbs and Croats can resolve their differences amicably. There is growing alarm in Bosnia, the predominantly Muslim republic, which is a buffer zone between Serbs and Croats, that violence may flair engulfing most of central and southern Yugoslavia.

Ethnic Turks seek to leave

From ROBERT SEELY IN MOSCOW

THOUSANDS of Osman Turks are demanding the right to leave the Soviet Union, fearing persecution and increasing ethnic violence, a spokesman said this week.

Abizer Tafyr claimed that the Soviet Union's 200,000 Muslim Turks, many of whom have lived there for generations have become virtual refugees within the Soviet Union. "Some of our people have assimilated but many are rootless, our homes have been set on fire and our people turned out on the street. We are moved from one place to another," he said.

The Osman Turks are one of the Soviet Union's forgotten nationalities. Most lived in Soviet central Asia until they became victims of pogroms organised by Uzbek nationalists in 1989. After the attacks the Soviet authorities transported the Turks living in the most volatile regions to sparsely populated areas in Russia and on the Black Sea coast. Mr Tafyr said letters demanding help had been sent to President Gorbachev stating that up to 10,000 Osman Turks wanted to leave the country.

"We have received no reply and we don't believe that the new travel law being discussed in the Russian parliament will alter our situation. We are forced to resort to other means of action to make our point. We owe the Soviet Union nothing," he said.

Osman Turkish groups contacted the Turkish embassy in Moscow, which views their case "in a positive light". An embassy spokesman said: "It is a complex problem and there would be great difficulties if large-scale immigration into Turkey took place. We are following their case, although any decisions regarding immigration could be made only once they were allowed to leave.

A Soviet foreign ministry spokesman said: "I can only say that our stand is this; anybody who for any reason wishes to leave the Soviet Union is free to do so."

Vilnius looks to big poll turnout

From ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

LITHUANIANS are expected to vote overwhelmingly in favour of independence for their Baltic republic in a referendum being held today, unless it is disrupted by Soviet troops. Large numbers of Western observers will monitor the poll.

The ballot papers ask the question: "Are you in favour of Lithuania becoming an independent democratic republic?" Almost all ethnic Lithuanians, a large majority of the total population, are expected to vote "yes" without reservations. However, members of minority groups, even those who favour independence in principle, would have preferred a choice of questions to allow them to express their doubts about the speed and nature of the independence process.

Some Lithuanian officials are worried by the political apathy of people in the countryside, especially the elderly, which has been made worse by dislike of Vytautas Landsbergis, the president, and his government, who are viewed as middle-class intellectuals. However, the general expectation is that the turnout will be high. Soviet pressure and violence have rallied the population behind the Lithuanian government.

A more important question, with implications for the future of the Soviet Union, concerns the attitude of the Polish, Russian and Belorussian minorities, which together make up almost a quarter of the population. Most Russians, about 9 per cent of the population, seem likely to follow the advice of the Soviet Communist party and boycott the poll. Most Russians are industrial workers, and are still largely under Communist influence.

The Poles have been influenced in favour of independence by their local leaders, by the Catholic church and by the attitude of the Polish government, broadcast to them on Polish television. Many have been horrified by the killings by Soviet troops last month.

On the other hand, ancestral fear of the Lithuanians is great, and has been increased by the insensitivity of much of Sajudis's behaviour over the past year. A straw poll among Polish, Russian and Belorussian workers indicated a boycott rate of around 70 per cent.

These people will presumably turn out to vote in the Soviet referendum on the continued unity of the Soviet Union, to be held on March 17. However, it is not clear how this will be organised. The Lithuanian government has said that it and its electoral commission will not co-operate. This has led to fears that the Lithuanian attitude could provide President Gorbachev with an excuse to impose presidential rule.



Landsbergis: unpopular among rural people

Tenant Walesa gets marching orders

From PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

LECH Walesa may be one of the first victims of Poland's privatisation process. The former owner of the house where he is living in Warsaw says she wants it back.

The villa was confiscated by the communists after their takeover in the second world war, but now Poland is in the process of re-privatisation and thousands of former owners may be able to retrieve their property. Janusz Lewandowski, the minister in charge of privatisation, said the process has been accelerated by the new government. Apart from selling state-operated plants to new owners, former plant and estate owners disinherited four decades ago are being urged to come forward to claim their property.

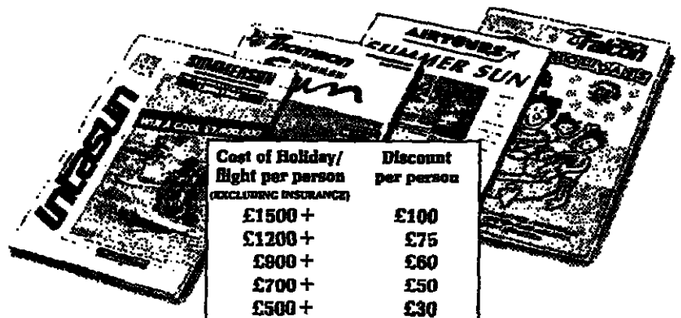
In President Walesa's case, the former owner knocked on the door of his house in the centre of Warsaw recently and said she would like it back. "The president said I will get my house back within three months and joked I could move in immediately and live in one room," said Barbara Lachert, according to the newspaper *Trybuna*.

Mr Lewandowski said a total of 10,000 applications had been filed with his ministry to retrieve property and 500 factories.

Henryk Jablonski, a former communist leader who lives near Mr Walesa, also had a knock on the door from the former owner. The independent newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* said he would be evicted if he failed to move out, apparently because he has relatives who received confiscated property and therefore had several places to stay.

Mr Lewandowski said that only land confiscated by the communists after 1958 would be eligible for return.

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DELHI NOTEBOOK by Christopher Thomas

Upper castes simply can't get the staff

Upper-caste Indians are complaining of "the servant problem" in tones reminiscent of the English upper classes in the 1930s. This is from a five-page magazine article on the subject: "Servants have moved up in life and insist on enjoying all the trappings of modern living such as TVs, VCRs, refrigerators and even coolers."

They now have their own union. Its Bombay-based leader says that there are still buildings that allow dogs in lifts, but not servants. "We want to be treated like human beings," he says.

Working as a domestic is increasingly regarded as demeaning, even for those of lowly caste who come from generations of servants. (Being a cook is a different matter. This position is often held by Brahmins, who cook for fellow Brahmins because lower castes would "contaminate" the food).

The trend away from domestic work began a decade ago, when substantial economic growth opened up better-paying factory jobs. The gap is now partly filled by tribal Christian women who are encouraged to migrate from their villages.Nepalis are also being drawn into the vacuum. There is much middle-class *angst* about the disappearance of servants, which is seen as another sign of the continuing erosion of caste divisions in the cities.



A Delhi housewife with the upper-caste name of Chatterjee told *India Today* magazine that in order to keep her staff she not only gave them a meal containing meat once a week, but regularly let them watch a film on the video recorder. And, what's more, "I don't check on the sugar."

A custom that is far from fading is astrology. Chandra Shekhar, the prime minister, uses one of the most famous in the business, Mahan Vir Tulli, who has been predicting the future for 40 years. He predicted Mr Chandra Shekhar's rise to power last November and claims to have forseen the formation of Bangladesh, the Iran-Iraq war, the Falklands war and trouble in the Gulf. He says the presence of Mars in Taurus means that strife will continue in the Gulf until March. He also predicts that Mr Chandra Shekhar will survive in office for 17 months, which is a lot longer than anybody else gives him.

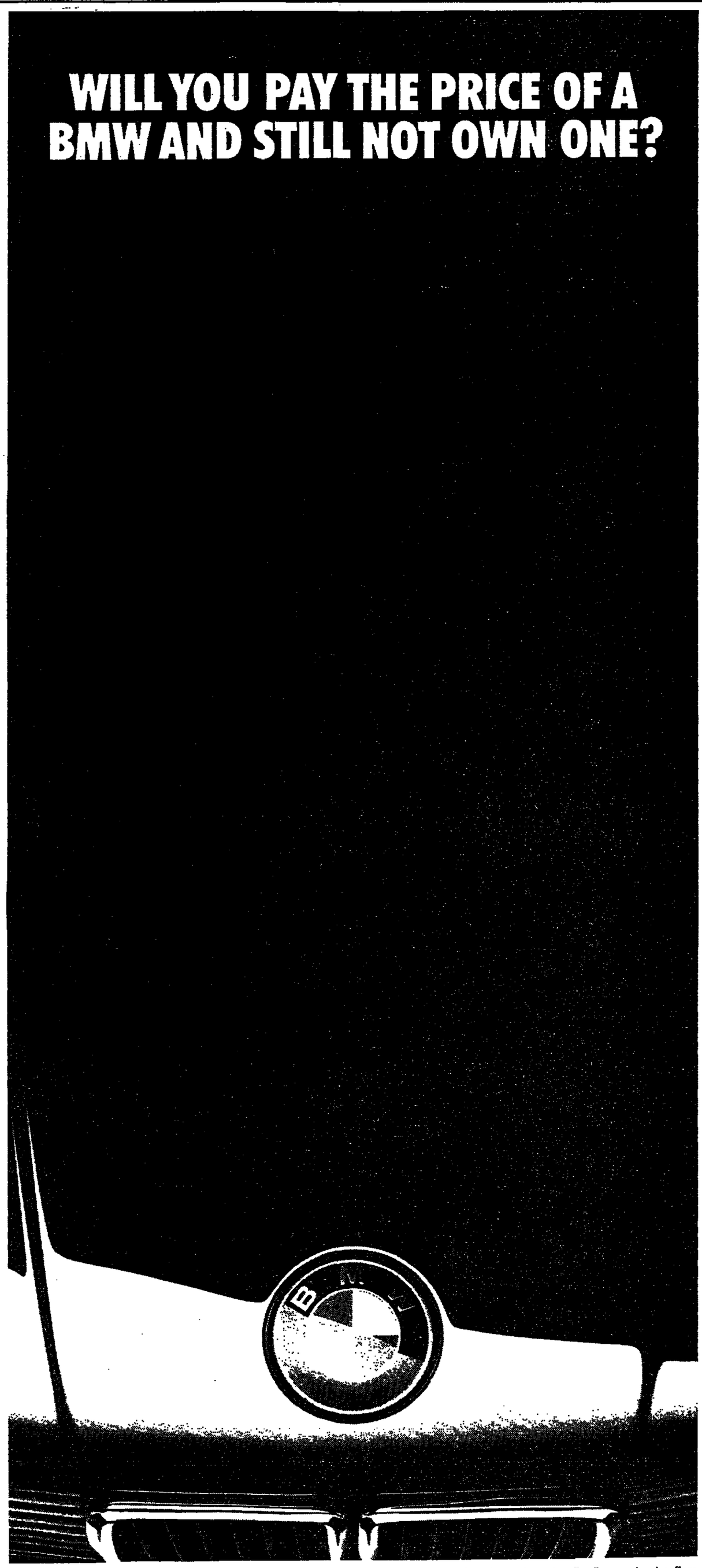
The official death toll on India's roads last year was 50,000, with another 500,000 seriously injured. The biggest losers in the urban traffic are scooter riders, who disappear beneath buses and lorries. The unwritten law of road is that might gets right of way, which means that buses and lorries feel no compulsion to use their brakes. Delhi has one of the worst traffic records in the country, with annual deaths running at almost 2,000 for the past two years. Traffic experts say it is time to reserve special slow lanes for bullock carts and bicycles. The experts have not mentioned anything about clearing the streets of cows, however, which create havoc.

The southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala are pooling resources in the search for a bandit called Veerappan, who has felled almost an entire forest of sandalwood trees. He is something of a folk hero in the region, having handed out money to thousands of villages in return for their silence and co-operation. He employs hundreds of people to chop down trees and ship them to buyers. Police and government officials are bribed to look the other way. The hunt has been going on for a year.

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Clifford Longley

Making sense of divorce

The sacking of the deputy head teacher of a Catholic school in Richmond-upon-Thames has revived controversy over the church and divorce. A Catholic, he broke the rules by divorcing and remarrying in a register office. This, the church authorities decided, made him unsuitable to teach Catholic children (even though some of them have divorced parents).

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Rev Michael Bowen, took a harder line in this case than some other bishops would have done. It cannot be denied, however, that his predicament was a real one. So is the predicament of the divorced teacher, Hans Formella, and of tens of thousands of other Catholics in the same situation.

Nor is this exclusively a Roman Catholic predicament. The Church of England is not so touchy about the marital status of teachers in its schools, but the General Synod wrangled for more than a decade on whether to allow divorcees to remarry in church. Eventually it had to give up.

Even secular marriage in a register office is touched by this dilemma. The registrar will tell the couple privately that if what they have in mind is temporary or trial marriage, he cannot marry them. But any registrar knows that that is exactly what many have at least half in mind if things go wrong. The Christian tradition, like civil law, says that marriage is for life. Those who marry again in the lifetime of the divorced spouse are, in the plain words of scripture, committing adultery.

> "The Pope's partial solution is to allow the second marriage to exist provided the couple vow not to sleep together. People are not queuing up..."

The problem for the Anglican and Catholic church authorities alike is to maintain the essence of a teaching they did not invent and cannot change, while not consigning to outer darkness those who fall foul of it. In their debates, the same plaintive question is heard: why is divorce (and remarriage) the one unforgivable sin?

Many partial solutions have been offered. Officially, Anglican practice is to accept a remarried person back as a communicant after a penitential period of abstention. This satisfactorily demonstrates that the church is not happy, but it is illogical, for the individual does not repent his supposed "adultery" but intends to stay in the second marriage.

Unofficial Anglican practice, followed by many clergy with or without the consent of their bishop, is to allow remarriage in church but with expressions of penitence for the breakdown of the first marriage; or to hold a service of blessing after a register office wedding. But the clergy cannot conduct or bless the second marriage and then demand repentance of that too. So, at odds with the traditional doctrine, this practice implies that the first marriage has somehow died – an approach the Orthodox churches have always taken.

The present Pope's partial solution is to allow the second marriage to exist as a social unit, with access to the sacraments, provided the couple take a vow not to sleep together but to live as "brother and sister". For obvious reasons, people are not queuing up to try this bizarre lifestyle.

The conventional Catholic answer is an annulment, by which a church court declares that the first marriage never really existed because of some fundamental defect. In that event, the second marriage, as far as the church is concerned, is the first marriage. The less conventional Catholic answer is to allow the couple's conscience to decide whether they are in a state of sin. If they emerge from the confessional absolved or acquitted – and what transpired is known only to them and the priest – they may receive communion.

But the growing custom is for the couple, Anglican or Catholic, to find their own solution. They either drift away from their church, or continue as members keeping one area of their lives slightly clandestine. It is harsh to blame them, but it is equally harsh to criticise the churches for failing to solve a problem that is logically insoluble.

All the unsatisfactory features of the various church disciplines may not in fact be alternatives, but parts of the same jigsaw which, once assembled, reveals the truth. Why, to borrow from the Greek church, do some marriages appear to die? Is it because they had a hidden fatal defect from the start which exerts its destructive influence only slowly? Can this, to borrow from the Anglican penitential approach, sometimes be aggravated over time by some combination of moral or psychological failings in those concerned? Is this sin, or incompatibility?

Is not the drift in English divorce law away from the concept of "fault"? Is not the scepticism of the superintendent registrar a wise open-mindedness about the true conscious and subconscious condition of everybody who marries? And who – to peer into the confession box – is to answer all these questions? The couple concerned may want their own answers, but public authority, in the form of church or state, needs to know only as much as is necessary to protect the integrity of law and sacrament. And that may be less than they thought.

If all these doubts are added together, a theology to handle remarriage begins to emerge. Along with the public status of marriage, there is a private and mysterious dimension. Quite rightly in their general teaching, the churches have concentrated on the relationship of marriage in all its mystery. But in their divorce discipline, they have confused it with the public status of marriage, in all its certainty.

The question is not who is committing adultery with whom. The question is how anyone can ever be sure. Part of the answer must be, never sure enough to dismiss a good teacher from his job for it. Mr Formella is the victim not of Christian doctrine but of a presumption of church law, which claims to know for certain the things that poets and lovers would hardly dare to guess.

No more pussy-footing: hit the IRA

After the mortar bombs, Conor Cruise O'Brien makes the case for internment in place of a political solution

A good week for the IRA; a bad week for democracy. The very moment, almost, that the IRA mortar bombs were fired at 10 Downing Street saw the collapse of Peter Brooke's protracted effort to find a compromise formula to which Northern Ireland's democratic parties and the democratic governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland might agree.

Yet a bad week for democracy may turn out to be a good thing in the long run, provided the week's challenge leads to more realistic thinking. The week's combination of events should lead to a critical re-examination of what has been the conventional wisdom in these islands for many years on the correct response to the IRA campaign of terror.

Under this conventional wisdom, we are told *ad nauseam* there can be "no military solution", meaning that the security forces can never defeat the IRA. So what is needed is "a political solution" that will "end the alienation of the minority in Northern Ireland" and "marginalise the men of violence". This was the thinking that gave us the Anglo-Irish Agreement, under which the IRA has flourished, and also the "Brooke initiative", which this week lay down and died.

As for "the men of violence", Thursday found them "marginalised" into the heart of Whitehall.

The formula "no military solution, only a political solution" suits the IRA. It is happy that instead of concentrating on the struggle against terrorism, the democratic governments and the democratic parties should devote their energies and ingenuity to chasing political will-o'-the-wisps up blind alleys.

The will-o'-the-wisp that has just fluttered its last – the Brooke initiative – deserves a brief post mortem, if only to discourage pursuit of any further specimens of the genus in future.

What the Secretary of State was looking for was a formula that would permit devolved government in Northern Ireland, with participation of both the Unionists and the Social and Democratic Labour Party, and with Dublin's blessing. The Unionists were at first attracted to the idea, seeing in it a possible way of getting rid of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which they detest. The SDLP and Dublin were attracted, as a way of putting further pressure on the Unionists, *with the Agreement still in place*, and so going one step further to their goal of a united Ireland.

There was never any chance of finding a formula that would satisfy those conflicting expectations and intentions. The mystery is why Peter Brooke worked at it for so long.

Mr Brooke, in that respect, has been much praised for his patience. Let him receive such praise as is due to a man who, over many months, quietly and courteously, bangs his head against a stone wall. He should now be replaced by someone more dedicated to the basic issue: getting after the IRA.

After 20 years, it should be clear that the IRA cannot be defeated under the laws and conventions now in force in both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The failure to defeat the IRA has now twice brought the British cabinet to the verge of annihilation. Many other people, mostly in Northern Ireland, have fared even worse.

We are warned against "overreaction"; *under*-reaction, however, is quite acceptable. Instead of reviewing existing laws and conventions, to make them less comfortable for the IRA, the authorities ought, we are told, to persevere in the quest for a political solution. The IRA agrees. It knows there is no political formula that can hurt it. The time will come, it believes, when the long accumulation of failures to find an agreed solution will bring the British round at last to disengagement from Northern Ireland.

As for the hope that the Agreement would "end the alienation of the minority", the hope was expressed when it was signed five years ago that the SDLP would be encouraged to cooperate fully with the security forces. That has not happened. The SDLP is at best neutral between the IRA and the security forces, and will never be better than neutral.

In putting back the emphasis on security, internment should not be ruled out. That matter should now be placed on the agenda of the Anglo-Irish intergovernmental conference. It will be said, once more, that internment has been "tried and failed". It did not fail – when applied on both sides of the border – during the second world war and in 1957-62. It failed in the 1970s, when it was applied in a grossly incompetent and indiscriminate manner, and in Northern Ireland only.

It need not fail in the future, if it is applied selectively, on the basis of good intelligence, and on both sides of the border. Simply to raise the matter now would have a salutary effect both on the IRA and on its friends, not all of whom care to appear publicly in that capacity.

Others grumble amid the turmoil wrought by snow. Philip Howard revels

In praise of blanket coverage

Humbug, they say, is the defining English characteristic. It certainly shows in our English attitudes to the fluffy white stuff that droppeth like the gentle rain from heaven, but colder and (usually) more softly.

Scots are more accustomed to snow, and less soppy about it. A poetic Aberdonian youth (now an eminent professor) thought that when Housman expressed a wish to get out into the woods at Easter to see the cherry "hung with snow", he was talking about the real stuff, not a metaphor for blossom. He did not realise his wild Caledonian misapprehension until his first Lent term at Cambridge at the age of 20.

An occasional fall of snow is only to be expected in our far northern island, which the shivering Romans named Ultima Thule, and for which they invented not only the hot bath but also central heating. When the Romans abandoned Britain, the rude natives promptly forgot both these useful antidotes to snow until the middle of the 19th century. But we have only to get a small flurry of snow these days, and uproar breaks out. Transport, communications, and industry throughout the land skid and slush to a halt. Workers struggle in late wearing wellies and woolly hats worthy of Dr Zhivago, smug-faced as though they had just marched to the Pole and back.

Xenophon described his men dying of exhaustion while trying to march through deep snow in Armenia, and we agreed that it was not far off Armenian conditions on the Northern Line yesterday. Horror stories of burst pipes and smothered cars compete for schadenfreude. Sub-editors pull out their shock-horror headlines about White Hell and True Grit (referring to those true-Brit superheroes who managed to get to work through an inch of snow).

It was a Frenchman who described Canada as *quelques arpents de neige*, but Voltaire was, as often, displaying an English irony. Every English schoolboy knows that it was the terrible northern snow that thwarted Napoleon, and Hitler, and Hannibal.

The authoritative *Handbook of Snow* approaches its subject with due English gravity: "Snow is a pervasive element that may, at times, paralyse communities and stagger economies throughout the world. Appreciated for its beauty and for its usefulness to winter sports enthusiasts, snow more often than not is considered an undesirable and costly nuisance." There speaks the official English attitude to snow.

Humbug and hypocrisy. The truth is that we love snow. It transforms our cities, and introduces a breath of raw nature into our humdrum urban lives. The little dogs race in ecstatic circles in the strange white park, and small children struggle to be put down to soak in the pretty stuff. (Cats are not so keen about it, nor are the swans stranded on the Round Pond.)

The world is wonderfully changed overnight. Our English folk memory goes back to frost fairs on the frozen Thames, and Jack Frost, and yule logs, and further back than that to mistletoe and Druidical goings-on at the winter solstice. Snow is our symbol of purity, and beauty, and the forgiveness of sins. The light and the sounds of life are transformed. The traffic roar is suddenly still.



Enough to cool their ardour... a statue keeps lonely vigil yesterday in a park at Bromley, south-east London

Contrary to our fashionable modern grumbles, the literary references are almost entirely favourable to snow.

When men were all asleep the snow came flying,
In large white flakes upon the city brown,
Stealthily and perpetually settling and loosely lying,
Hushing the latest traffic of the drowsy town.

The Authorised Version and the 1662 Prayer Book, those bedrocks of our English language, are consistently enthusiastic about snow, from Isaiah reassuring us that though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, to the Prayer Book declaring that He giveth snow like wool, and inviting snow and vapours, wind and storm, to praise the Lord.

Shakespeare evidently loved snow, in its proper place. Nobody could have written that lovely song about greasy Joan in *Love's Labour's Lost* who did not remember the excitement of the white winters of childhood. As with so many of our English catchphrases, when we say "as white as driven snow", we are merely repeating what Shakespeare said first (in *The Winter's Tale*).

I admit that Auden wrote, "Into many a green valley/Drifts the appalling snow". But he was using snow as a metaphor for white hair and advancing mortality. I admit that James Joyce wrote, "His soul swooned softly as he heard the snow faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead." Joyce, though, was not English, but an expatriate Irishman. And anyway, I think that his phrase catches the mysterious beauty of the snow.

That honorary Englishman, the poet Horace, was entirely Anglo-Saxon in his pretend hate, real love, of snow, with his haunting hymn to spring, *Diffugere nives*, and his Dickensian exhortation from the snug, by the fire, with a bott of good juice just opened, to look out of the window at Mount Soracte, piled high with snow. I bet Horace tobogganned, sedately.

Leaving the poetry out of snow (if you think you can), at its crudest material level the English secretly love their snow as an excuse for a day off work or school, or at any rate for arriving late, leaving early, and spending most of the time in between in pleasurable grumbling about the weather. We were out in force on our toboggans and skis and less formal sliding vehicles in the parks and on the roads yesterday, replacing the solitary and unstylish narcissism of the joggers.

A Stone-Age carving in the Norwegian Ski Museum in Oslo corroborates that skiing is at least 5,000 years old. Alpine nations, Scandinavians, and the North Americans tend to win the golds at skiing events. But the English actually invented Alpine skiing as a sport, and it is one of our fastest growing national obsessions. The winter skiing holiday has replaced the summer fortnight on the Costa Brava as the status symbol for office swanking and snapshots.

Disregard today's sensational headlines and gloomy round-ups of snowtorious conditions around the country by melancholy clowns on radio and television, trying to make our goose pimples creep. J.B. Priestley is no longer a fashionable author. But he was jolly good on the hypocritical, private English character: "The first fall of snow is not only an event, it is a magical event. You go to bed in one kind of world and wake up in another quite different, and if this is not enchantment then where is it to be found?"

Right on. Let the great snow fall. Secretly, we love it.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

More than a year ago I expressed doubts in this column about the supposed greenhouse effect. I dug up newspaper reports, a decade-old warning of the arrival of the new ice age. "Top scientists" (at the time) discerned, even then, signs of its onset.

However, a reader has written to explain that there is no necessary inconsistency between the theory of global warming and predictions of global cooling. It may very well be, you see, that while the emission of greenhouse gases is warming the planet, other factors are cooling it. If so, the effect of global warming might be to make the freeze milder than it would otherwise be. The global greenhouse becomes our friend, our protector, our blanket against the advancing cold.

Before proceeding any further I must dissociate Dr Rudd, my correspondent, from this exercise. Dr Rudd is a serious man, an engineering and economics consultant. He has written a serious paper (he sent me a copy) but in it he offended the conventional wisdom. I am not a serious man! I take off at a tangent from Dr Rudd's paper.

It is becoming evident that a new ice age is upon us. Cautious readers may require a few more days of this dreadful cold before they conclude beyond question that this is so; for myself, I am already sure. By Monday, I have no doubt that we shall all be sure, and can then agree that immediate steps must be taken to increase the emission of greenhouse gases.

So here, to ponder over a frosty weekend, is a package of proposals. They are designed to stimulate global warming. This may be our last chance.

First, carbon dioxide. This is the product of combustion, which occurs when you burn things, during explosions, and in the engine of a car. Therefore:

- Take into the garden all your old furniture, newspapers, anything you can lay your hands on, and light the most almighty bonfire. Watch those flames leap heavenward and think of all that lovely CO_2!
- Buy a second, third, or fourth car. Choose a gas-guzzler. Make as many unnecessary journeys as you can, and encourage your friends to do the same.
- Turn up your central heating to maximum. If the room gets too hot, open the windows.
- Support the Gulf war.

Second, methane. This is a by-product of certain forms of decomposition, and of the human and animal digestive process. Therefore:

- Buy a sheep.
- Eat lots of baked beans.
- Start a compost heap.

Third, CFCs – chlorofluorocarbons. These parallel the greenhouse gases in attacking the ozone layer and letting through more life-giving ultraviolet light. You will tan faster and your raspberries will ripen earlier. Therefore:

- Avoid products with an "ozone-friendly" label. Ozone-*un*friendly aerosols are becoming harder to find but are still widely available in eastern Europe and the Third World.
- Once you have a collection of ozone-unfriendly sprays, discharge them all at once, in a glorious mega-spray-in. Dance around the bonfire (see under "CO_2" above) with your friends in an orgy of hair-spray, fly-spray and stove lacquer. You could spray your sheep purple! Remember, for every little puff, a tomato ripens in Strathclyde.
- Choose expanded polystyrene products wherever possible. Once used, burn them in an open fire.
- Do you have an old fridge in your garage? Take it outside and note the network of thin piping at the back. Through this piping the CFC gas is pumped, to cool it. Take a pickaxe and lay into these pipes, ripping them open. A grove of oranges will ripen in Orkney.

Fourth, atmospheric lead pollution. This is not a greenhouse gas at all, but usefully attacks brain-cells, lowering the intellectual capacity of children, and rendering them better suited to life in modern Britain. The Department of Education and Science, of course, is already doing a fine job: but lead-poisoning is faster and more reliable than any comprehensive school. Therefore:

- Switch to leaded petrol. A simple conversion kit is available from specialist garages. Give it a thought.

Changing your lifestyle to help care for our planet is never easy, and destructive habits like energy conservation die hard. But spread the word. Each of us can play his part in creating a warmer, stupider tomorrow.

If that bomb had hit home...

The mortar attack on Downing Street has led constitutionalists to ponder who would run the country if John Major and his entire war cabinet had perished.

Would Michael Heseltine, whose job at Environment excludes him from that small circle, finally fulfil his dream? Most experts think not; rather, they say, what remained of the government would soldier on without a prime minister until a new Tory leader was elected. For this there is a precedent. In 1812, after the murder of Spencer Percival in the House of Commons lobby, there was a hiatus before the Prince Regent asked Lord Liverpool to become prime minister.

"The government could manage without a prime minister because the office holds no specific departmental responsibilities," says Lord Blake, the Conservative party historian. "But the Queen might decide to appoint an interim prime minister, a senior surviving member of the cabinet, who could command Commons support."

Blake thinks that Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, would be an obvious choice because he would have no interest in the ensuing contest for the Tory leadership.

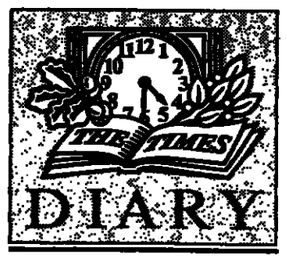
But what if the *entire* cabinet were killed? In spite of the Brighton bomb in 1984, Downing Street has not prepared contingency plans. Lord Hailsham, a predecessor of Mackay on the Woolsack, suggests that a senior backbencher, approved by the Queen, should take over pending a leadership election.



Who should that be? Someone with previous experience of high office would be preferred. If that experience is recent, so much the better. So step out of retirement, Mrs Thatcher. For that, too, there is a precedent. When William IV dismissed Lord Melbourne, the Whig prime minister, in 1834, he sent for Sir Robert Peel, leader of the Tories. Peel, however, was in Rome, so the king asked the Duke of Wellington, who had given up the premiership four years earlier, to return temporarily to Downing Street.

Would Mrs Thatcher accept a mere caretaker role? "As a former prime minister reappointed by the Queen," says Blake, "she would be within her rights not to go when supposed to. She could stay on and fight a vote of confidence in the Commons." And win?

● *On Wednesday Norman Lamont and his family moved into the Chancellor's official residence, 11 Downing Street. On Thursday most of the windows at the back were blown out by the IRA mortar bomb. The Lamonts immediately moved out to make way for the repair men, leaving their pet guinea-pig to look after the shop.*



Family honours

The imminent elevation of Jonathan Sacks to the post of Chief Rabbi has brought to light an achievement worth at least a footnote in Cambridge academic history. He and his three brothers all studied at Gonville and Caius College, where they recorded three double firsts and an upper second.

Eliot Edward, the youngest brother, was awarded a double first in philosophy in 1982, Alan got a similar result in law in 1977 and Brian Zachary achieved the same in maths in 1973.

"They are staggeringly bright," says Dr J.D. Pickles, librarian of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. "I have checked, and can find no comparable family attending the same college and achieving such results. It is a modern record, certainly the best this century."

It was the oldest brother, incidentally, the one about to attain British Jewry's highest position, who could only manage a second.

Quick single

John Major may not have to wait until the next century to join the MCC after all. The disclosure in the Diary earlier this week that the Lord's authorities had no plans to allow him to jump the 20-year waiting list has caused consternation among club members, several of whom have offered – in a cricketing context – to make the supreme sacrifice.

Typical of them is Sir Hugh Ripley, who has written to the MCC secretary, Lt-Col John Stephenson, saying: "I am very happy to tender my resignation with immediate effect, on condition that John Major is elected forthwith in my place."

It should not come to that. Stephenson says that in exceptional circumstances, a candidate can be considered for election if it is in the interests of the club. "The club committee will be meeting before the start of the new season in April, when the prime minister's case could be considered if the membership wishes it.

"Mr Major is a marvellous supporter of cricket, but this is a procedure that we can only use very sparingly." The last candidate allowed to jump the queue was Robert Runcie, the recently retired Archbishop of Canterbury.

So it now looks odds-on that Major will watch the occasional hour of England's second Test against the West Indies in June from the members' pavilion. But if Labour wins the next election, will there be a similar eagerness to bend the rules for Neil Kinnock?

Fanny by spotlight

A feminist version of *Fanny Hill*? Yes indeed, and playwright April de Angelis's ideologically sound dramatisation of John Cleland's fictional biography of the 18th-century prostitute takes to the boards in April at the Battersea arts centre in London. "I think *Fanny Hill* is a wonderful book," she says. "It's a very male view of sex, but it does let women have desires too. It is not difficult to present it as a feminist work."

The feminist version of the play will also examine the boundaries of censorship. "*Fanny Hill* is still heavily censored," says de Angelis. "I was drawn towards it because it is still considered so inflammatory."

● *The ultimate fashion accessory, a pair of George III silver-and-tortoiseshell sunglasses, is offered for sale today at the International Silver and Jewellery Fair at London's Park Lane Hotel. Silver expert Sanda Lipton has priced them at £890. "They were made in 1797 by Edmond Wells, an optician in Fetter Lane," she says. But well-heeled trendsetters would be advised to stick to their Ray-Bans; the green-tinted glasses were made for a short-sighted customer.*

هكذا في الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

TIMES PAST — THE TIMES

APARTHEID'S BLACK LEGACY

A year has now passed since South Africa's rulers set themselves unequivocally on course for a destination unique in Africa and rare anywhere. This destination is a stable, federal democracy in which capitalism is dominant, minorities are protected under the rule of law and politics is not dominated by racial or tribal vendettas. The route which President F. W. de Klerk has chosen passes through the narrow straits of sharing power with, among others, the African National Congress, which is still distrusted by many South African whites. First steps, planned for this year, involve an advisory council, including blacks, with an input into government policy pending the promised constitutional conference.

This route depends on several conditions. One of these is a measure of economic recovery. Pretoria's finance minister, Barend du Plessis, said yesterday that unemployment could render South Africa ungovernable within a few years unless sanctions were lifted and foreign credit could flow in again.

He is wrong. Sanctions have probably strengthened the country's economic self-discipline and have harmed few, mostly poor black workers. But swift post-apartheid urbanisation has created a large pool of ill-educated and destitute blacks, whose expectations are proving as hard for Nelson Mandela to satisfy as for Mr du Plessis.

More important for Mr de Klerk's power sharing is the existence of viable groups with whom to share power. Numerous black organisations are on the list for membership of the proposed council, many of them hostile to each other and few with obvious governmental talent. Given the urgency of Mr de Klerk's reform programme, the creation of a literate and prosperous black élite, competent enough to make power sharing a reality, is now critical.

Yesterday the South African foreign minister, Pik Botha, called on America and other western states to support "dramatic plans" for improving black housing, training and education. Well might he so plead, but these are aspects of public spending woefully neglected for decades under Pretoria's apartheid economics.

The schools boycott of recent years has been disastrous for the children of the black townships. The recent lifting of educational apartheid may help better-off blacks and coloureds, aided by intense positive discrimination. But no visitor to South Africa can be in any doubt of the scale of the task.

The long international isolation of South Africa has been as damaging to black advancement as to white sportsmen. Cultural isolation has held back the emergence of a younger black intelligentsia to challenge the ANC's expatriate gerontocracy, and locked such leadership as the blacks can muster into a quaintly outdated socialism. While some in the ANC hierarchy are refreshingly open-minded on economic policy, the party as a whole is still woefully naive.

Lack of leadership has enabled violent black radicals and gangsters to keep a hold over township power groups. A free flow of students, experts and leaders between South Africa and the West is now more critically important than ever in South Africa's history. Boycotts and embargoes are pernicious and damaging, less to the republic's economy than to its culture.

White supremacy has been cloaked in a seamless robe of authority, based in the Afrikaner's tribal tradition of communal solidarity and reinforced by the country's ostracism from the West. Inducing the tribe to break open, to share power with Afrikanderdom's historical enemies, will be hard enough. The inexperience and poor calibre of much of the black élite will make it harder. Until blacks are better equipped to enter the preserves of Pretoria's civil and military mandarins, power-sharing will be a dead letter.

AFTER THE POLL TAX: 3

The poll tax must be replaced by a property based tax. Those paying this tax must see it as accountable to local councils. Putting education onto central government is no way out. This is the story so far, generally accepted by those of most political persuasions struggling with alternatives to the poll tax. But as the Labour party showed yesterday, much argument remains over the property tax and over the extent to which it should reflect income. Liberal Democrats and many in the Labour party even believe that a full local income tax should be part of an alternative to poll tax.

The ideal after which such enthusiasts are chasing is the same as that which led the Tory government down the awful path to poll tax, that local taxation can be rendered free of pain. Labour at least courageously acknowledged the necessity to bring back the rates, in the first instance on old rateable values. But Labour hankers after a more ruthless relationship between income and local tax. It wants steeply-graded rebates for those of modest incomes, and eventually a surcharge for the very rich. Experience in Scandinavia, advocates of this route say, suggests that local income taxes can supplement other taxes satisfactorily.

The argument is delicate. Of those nations which give municipalities the freedom to impose a full local income tax, only Finland still allows a free hand in setting the level of such taxes. Norway imposes a ceiling on the burden councils may impose on individuals, as does Sweden. It is inconceivable that the Treasury would ever permit local councils power to set an income tax. Such a tax would be merely a supplement to national tax, as business rates have sadly now become.

Even were a "capped" local income tax to be introduced, payable direct to a local council, the need for local councils to hold, update and administer tax registers is unappealing. Computerisation of the Inland Revenue, not yet complete, might make it easier, but not much. And since the Exchequer (that is, national income tax) contributes up to half of local revenue already through grants, why expect a local income tax (capped by the Exchequer) to contribute to the other half?

Hence Labour's understandable preference for income-related rates rebates, presumably operated through the means-testing regime of supplementary benefit. This is sensible, provided it does not prove too widespread and does not offend against the accountability principle, that all users of local services should pay something towards their cost. In pursuit of this ambition, the former Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, proposed a mixture of rates and a fixed personal charge for local services. Some district council leaders also suggest a charge on all households, with reductions for those who can prove that they live alone or cannot afford to pay.

The insurmountable problem with any charge related to individuals is that it is hugely expensive to collect. While administration of the rates consumed less than 1 per cent (0.8%) of the total yield, the poll tax costs more than 3 per cent (3.15%), chiefly because of the cost of maintaining registers. Population turnover in urban areas has led to an average of two fifths of entries being changed within the first year. And if local taxation is to revert to the cheap and simple rating list, there is little point in maintaining a parallel list of individual payers.

The essence of the rates is that they are a tax on space, comparable to the old tax Schedule A. They roughly equate with wealth and, like the best wealth taxes, encourage the efficient use of the wealth invested in property. Given this progressivism, rebates for the poor need be much less than under poll tax: the poor tend to live in cheaper property. Parties may differ on how far every household should pay something, explicitly on top of rent. They need not differ on the principle of payment or of rebate. There is a mass of agreement here, just waiting for Michael Heseltine to pick it up and land it on the cabinet table.

OUT IN THE MID-DAY SNOW

There is no better way of getting the British to work than for a policeman to ask that "only essential employees" should take to the transport system. Who will admit to spouse or boss that their daily chore is less than essential? Muttering and cursing and secretly proud, the worker defies the elements and good sense, dons a muffler and boots and proves his (or her) eccentricity. Thus did the manager of a London gritting depot struggle to work, and then complain he could not do his job because the roads were littered with the abandoned cars of people trying to get to work.

Hence the message of David Weeks, an American-born psychologist, who last week revealed that one in 10,000 Britons is officially eccentric. From his eyrie at Edinburgh University, he has uncovered a self-styled potato inspector who eats nothing but potatoes and goes on potato hunts in Peru. He writes of a middle-aged man who lives with two dogs in a Scottish cave which he has to vacate twice a day at high tide. He calculates that 59 per cent of eccentrics are in the top social class and that Britain has more than any other country in his survey (which also embraces Australia, New Zealand and the United States).

Some would say merely that a researcher is somebody who would steal your watch in order to tell you the time. Just now, they have an arduous task in challenging that most sceptical audience, newspaper editors, to give their outpourings space in preference to the Gulf. The timing of pronouncements such as those of Mr Weeks is all the more critical. But his liberal use of adjectives such as "eccentric" and "mad" and nouns such as "virgin" and "aristocrat" (as in virgin aristocrat wishes to be sacrificed to extinct volcano) wins him points in the contest to be newsworthier than thou.

We know little of Mr Weeks. Is he himself an eccentric, and if so by whose standards? If not, ditto. We know about one of our number who comes to work in a blue pin-stripe suit, sober shirt and tie, and orange canvas shoes. Is he eccentric, fashionable, colour blind or merely late getting up? If he is eccentric but escaped the Weeks net, we only have to find 5,599 people who share his perception of colour co-ordination and the number of British eccentrics rockets, to two in 10,000.

Half the point, or possibly as much as 59 per cent of the point, of being British is to traverse Europe being called eccentric by people who eat horses but do not play cricket. In America, where burglars can successfully sue their victims for having a faulty drainpipe, being British is pretty much synonymous with being eccentric. To an American, the phrase "English eccentric" is tautologous.

Mr Weeks' research thus creates a mild ripple of amusement. It sets in context our eccentric demand that millions be spent on expensive snow-clearing equipment that can be wheeled out for two days every four years, cheating us of our joy in pretending that our icebound struggles to work are "essential".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Past comparisons with today's war

From Miss Sylvia Adams

Sir, On July 29, 1940, *The Times* published the following letter:

Sir, The Emergency Powers (Defence) (No.2) Bill contains no provision which places on the prosecution the onus of proving the guilt of an accused in accordance with the existing rules of evidence.

I contend that statutory provision should be made to safeguard the liberty of the subject and to prevent the burden of proof being placed by the Regulations on the accused to establish his innocence.

Yours &c.,
EDWARD F. IWI,
5 Clements Inn, WC2, July 27.

It saddens me that even after the passage of over 50 years we are no nearer a solution, as witness your report (February 7) on the holding of Arabs who are regarded as a security risk and whose fate depends on the deliberations of an advisory panel.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA ADAMS,
6 Warenne Road, Hangleton Valley, Hove, East Sussex.
February 7.

From Viscount Caldecote, FEng

Sir, I don't understand why Mr Sinclair (January 31) is so concerned about comparisons being made between Hitler and Saddam Hussein, for the fact is that both ruthlessly invaded a neighbouring state without provocation, causing great suffering and damage.

But of course in one way 1938-9 was very different to 1990-1. In 1938 there was no consensus amongst peace-loving nations that Hitler's aggression should be halted perhaps we were not strong enough, opinions differ. So in 1939 a much greater more damaging conflict started, because earlier aggression and invasion had not been challenged.

Today the situation is entirely different: there is an overwhelming majority in the United Nations and in support of taking action to deal with Iraq's aggression and the allies have the determination and strength to deal with it effectively. It is indeed, in Mr Sinclair's words, "a punitive expedition against a state that is judged to have breached international law". Surely that is a just cause.

To suggest as he does that, because war has not been formally declared and our national survival is not at stake, we are entitled to express doubt and dissent in any way we please is irresponsible to say the least. And it shows a complete lack of the great gratitude and admiration which is due to all who are in danger or suffering in any way as a result of fighting aggression.

The old adage "If you want peace prepare for war" will always be true as long as cruel and ruthless dictators like Hitler and Saddam Hussein exist. We should not neglect the past, when we learnt that lesson the hard way, as Mr Sinclair apparently wants us to do.

Yours faithfully,
CALDECOTE,
House of Lords.
February 2.

From Mr F. B. Barrett

Sir, Mr David Sinclair's letter contains a shockingly cynical and revealing sentence that encapsulates his attitude. "There is no question of national survival to be addressed except for the peoples of Kuwait and Iraq." In 1939, the same could have been written, but substituting Poland and Germany for Kuwait and Iraq.

Yours faithfully,
F. B. BARRETT,
1 Victoria Court, 60 Victoria Road, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex.
February 1.

Gulf oil spill

From Dr Sue Mayer and Dr Gillian Glegg

Sir, Brian Ford's article, "How nature will lick the Gulf slick" (January 31), is misleading in its suggestion that the oil spill in the Gulf will cause damage which is very transient in nature and of little concern.

The idea that the spill will be good for bacteria does not in any way consider the full implications. Bacteria will digest oil slowly but their ability to do this is related to many factors, including the supply of nutrients other than hydrocarbons such as oxygen and nitrogen. Different bacteria will grow in different conditions.

In the absence of oxygen the smell will not be of freshly dug earth, as suggested in the article, but of bad eggs (hydrogen sulphide). The explosion of the bacterial population may well be a food source for the microscopic plankton, but only if they are able to cope with the surrounding environment in which the bacteria are growing.

The breakdown of some toxic chemicals from crude oil by bacteria is undoubtedly a benefit. However, to continue with the suggestion that this will release nutrients of benefit to plants and animals ignores the fact that in the face of an oil spill of such enormity very few individuals may be left to profit. To suggest that in three years things will be back to normal when considering animals such as the long-lived and slow-to-reproduce dugong is too glib.

To view the destruction of life as a matter of unavoidable fact and to portray the oil spill in terms of advantage to bacteria that can digest it shows a lack of understanding of the finely balanced ecosystem. We cannot take comfort from the growth in the local bacterial population when hundreds of sea birds, fish, and marine mammals have been killed and the ecosystem on which all are mutually dependent has been devastated.

Yours sincerely,
SUE MAYER,
GILLIAN GLEGG,
Greenpeace UK (science unit),
Canonbury Villas, N1.
February 4.

Police criticism

From Mrs S. R. Toye

Sir, Last month, upon the conclusion of the tragic case involving a girl hostage who was accidentally shot by a police marksman, the trial judge accused the West Midlands police force of having concealed a vital document and called for an enquiry which was subsequently set up.

It now transpires (report, January 26) that the judge has accepted that his criticism of the police had been misplaced and that, according to counsel, the responsibility for failing to call for the vital document lay with the force's legal advisers.

One must wonder why the judge who had called for an enquiry as to the conduct of the police has not, it seems, now called for any enquiry into the conduct of these advisers or even voiced any criticism of them. Further, who will bear the cost of the somewhat abortive enquiry into the conduct of the police?

Yours faithfully,
S. TOYE,
Beeches Farm,
Buckland St Mary,
Chard, Somerset.
January 28.

Channel tunnel safety

From the President of the National Association of Fire Officers

Sir, Your article (February 7) regarding the decision by Eurotunnel to prohibit the carriage of virtually all toxic and hazardous goods through the Channel tunnel when it opens is a success for organisations including my own that have campaigned for greater safety regulations within the project.

It is hoped that Eurotunnel will now consider other safety issues, viz: segregation of passengers from their vehicles; vehicles positioned within fire-resistant carriages and fastened to the floor; realistic passenger-evacuation times; full-scale evacuation drills.

My organisation will continue to campaign for greater safety within the Channel tunnel to ensure that disasters similar to King's Cross and Bradford are not repeated.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. McMUNN,
President,
National Association of Fire Officers,
10 Cuthbert Road,
Croydon, Surrey.
February 7.

Farm buildings control

From Mr Giles Sturdy

Sir, In your editorial (February 4) you write that farmers can erect what buildings they like. In fact, planning permission is required for livestock buildings within 400 metres of buildings where people live or work; for buildings over 465 square metres in area; and for buildings within 25 metres of a classified road.

You state that there is no control over the type of building a farmer can put up "as long as he calls it a farm building". Again this is not so: permission is granted by development order only to those buildings which are both "reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within the (farm) unit" and "designed for the purposes of agriculture". It is not sufficient that a building is used for agricultural purposes; it must look like a farm building as regards its physical appearance and layout.

Under existing planning controls planning authorities can "stop development altogether". A planning authority has the power to issue a direction which makes it necessary for planning applications to be submitted for all types of building, where the authority considers that there may be a threat to the rural landscape.

Should the prior notification system be extended throughout the country such directions would continue to be available to a planning authority where it considered that development was inappropriate. The authority *could* therefore stop development altogether in that area. Even if the planning authority did not issue a direction, no building could be erected without the authority's approval of the siting, design and external appearance of that building.

Whatever planning system is in operation, controls should be operated with a sympathy for and understanding of both farming and countryside needs.

Yours faithfully,
GILES STURDY (Chairman, Parliamentary Land Use and Environment Committee)
National Farmers' Union,
Agriculture House,
Knightsbridge, SW1.
February 4.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Hurdles in the Lincoln handicap

From Mr John Snell

Sir, The dispute at Lincoln has nothing to do with freehold tenure, although that system is the safest bastion against the views of those whom you label (leading article, February 4) "widely respected churchmen". It has everything to do with Crown appointments to deaneries and residentiary canonries, piecemeal, as and when vacancies arise. Clerics of differing outlooks and temperaments suddenly find themselves saddled with each other: not a recipe for guaranteed harmony.

The Magna Carta loss is a side issue. The dean is quite wrong to view the present impasse as questioning "episcopal authority". The bishop may ask for the resignation of whomsoever he will — as may you and I. He has not done so. He has asked for certain canons to "reconsider their positions". The distinction is more than one of style.

This they have done, and they rightly remain. Nobody but a fool would expect them to go, but then the foolish handling of this matter has put them in a difficult position. Your description of the canons' "clinging to their posts" is inapt. The bishop's admonition and award found no notable improprieties.

It is a matter of the deepest regret that Bishop Hardy chose to chair his own formal visitation instead of appointing a fellow bishop or canon lawyer to preside and to deliver to the Bishop of Lincoln his findings of fact. Hardy has disqualified himself from exercising any pastoral role. To many of us here it is his position which is now untenable, for we are no further forward.

We will not stand by to observe the destruction of four excellent men who have given a combination of 60 years of unstinted and (otherwise) uncriticised stewardship.

Yours ever,
JOHN SNELL,
16 Minster Yard, Lincoln.
February 4.

From the Vicar of Kesgrave

Sir, To suggest that the problems of Lincoln Cathedral chapter could be a justification for the dismantling of the system of freehold tenure in the Church of England is to mistake the character of the Church's ministry in the parishes. It is far more adaptable to changing needs than is often supposed.

The Church of England still maintains a valuable balance between bishop, priest and people which is lacking either in the Catholic Church (with its direction of clergy) or in the Free churches (with their essentially congregational outlook). Remove the freehold and the balance of authority would move radically towards the bishop.

If a priest has continually to watch lest he offend the interests of diocesan committees or "specialists" then the chances diminish steeply that he will be able to stand doggedly for the well-being of his parishioners.

Even more importantly, one of the strengths of the Church of England is the tradition of pastoral care which is still widely alive within it. It is valued by many, regardless of whether they attend church or no. Trust and affection take time to build and so does a ministry to a community. To remove the freehold would mean that the secure basis for a priest really "getting to know" people would be lost.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARES,
The Vicarage, Kesgrave,
Ipswich, Suffolk.
February 4.

From the Reverend Gavin Fargus

Sir, Are the clergy — at all levels — the best, or even the right, people to be given the responsibility of fund-raising and financial management as they are at present?

Let those who would throw the first stone in the Lincoln affair consider what might happen in the financial affairs of an "Oxbridge" college with woefully insufficient endowment if its teaching staff had the additional responsibility of fund-raising to keep it going. Might not some bright don conceive the notion of trotting round the globe with the college treasures on exhibition during the long vacation?

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN FARGUS,
Benvheir Cottage,
Ballachulish,
Argyll.
February 5.

Arts sponsorship

From Mr Larry Westland

Sir, A further low in the arts awards fatigue scale is marked by the introduction of the Sainsbury's Awards for Arts Education. We are told (Arts page, January 30) that this latest public relations venture "runs hand in hand with J. Sainsbury's policy of 'own brand' grocery marketing" — Heaven help the arts!

On the surface such overworked marketing ploys appear to be contributing to the arts. If we look deeper, however, we see a different picture.

In the last Prudential Awards, for instance, £100,000 went to Ballet Rambert and £25,000 to English National Opera, Almeida Festival and two organisations to whom the money was a much-needed lifeline. However, just a fraction of the £400,000 reputedly spent on publicity, administration and fees to sponsorship brokers for this media event, billed as the country's "richest ever", could have rescued any number of arts projects.

Many companies have sponsorship programmes which are well thought out and whose commitment to the society which buys their products is genuine. Marks & Spencer and W. H. Smith, for example, are more concerned that we at Music for Youth are encouraging music in our schools than how many column inches they have notched up in the past month.

Yours faithfully,
LARRY WESTLAND
(Executive Director),
Music for Youth,
23a Kings Road, SW3.
February 7.

Sales distinction

From Miss J. M. Harries

Sir, Mr Freeman (February 5) is mistaken in linking car boot sales (whether indoor or out) with jumble sales. There is an important difference between these two events.

In the latter a collection of items, donated by various individuals, is sold and usually the entire profits are given to one or more charities. In a normal car boot sale, however, the only proceeds which might go to charity (if any) would be the rent for the pitch, the proceeds from sales being retained by the sellers.

There seems to be no reason, except that of cost (hire of hall), why this procedure should not be transferred indoors, but the result would not be a jumble sale in the accepted sense. We do not yet seem to have found a word for this type of event.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN HARRIES,
6 Orchard Court,
Crondall,
Farnham, Surrey.

From Mr S. C. Procter

Sir, The chief planning officers of the shire district councils, members of this society, will welcome your leader on the subject of "Country carbuncles." You rightly urge Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, to go further towards bringing farm buildings, roads, etc., under control than he at present proposes.

Elsewhere in the same issue the Council for the Protection of Rural England and others highlight the extent to which the freedom from control of agricultural development can be abused by the unscrupulous.

Mr Heseltine's current proposals will not provide the kind of control that is clearly desired by members of the public who write frequently to local councils and MPs about abuses of the planning system.

This society hopes for a change of mind which will bring this form of development under the same control as applies to all other forms. Genuine farmers with a genuine need for new buildings, who are prepared to co-operate with reasonable suggestions have nothing to fear.

Yours faithfully,
S. C. PROCTER (Past President, District Planning Officers' Society),
8 Shelvers Way, Tadworth, Surrey.
February 4.

The new millennium

From Mr F. C. Middleton

Sir, I suggest that David Blackman's premise (February 6), and hence his argument, is at fault.

Surely, the last year before Christ (1BC) was followed immediately by the first Year of Our Lord (Anno Domini — AD1), i.e., there was no such year as AD0.

To put it another way, the starting line for a hundred metres race is set at the beginning of the first metre!

Loath as I am, since it reduces my chances of enjoying the occasion, I agree with Richard Need (January 31) that the millennium will end on December 31, 2000.

Yours sincerely,
FRED MIDDLETON,
8 Princes Avenue,
Penn Wood,
Orpington, Kent.
February 6.

Adverse conditions

From Mr J. A. Tingley

Sir, On Thursday, after a couple of inches of snow in this small town, my bank was closed at 3pm and a large insurance company sent its staff home at lunch time. A building society in south London did not reply to the telephone all afternoon: no one was there.

I am now beginning to understand how it is possible to make such large-scale redundancies in the financial-services sector. I wonder if the employees in that industry have yet made the connection.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. TINGLEY,
James Tingley & Co (solicitors),
The Farnaby Suite,
16 South Park,
Sevenoaks, Kent.
February 8.

From Colonel J. P. Kiszely

Sir, The announcer at Waterloo East who brought a smile to Mrs Jackson's face (February 8) has a colleague among the train staff on the Bakerloo line who announces the arrival of his crowded, rush-hour train with the warning: "Let the passengers fall out first, please".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KISZELY,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall, SW1.
February 8.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 8: Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Past President of the National Federation of Housing Associations, this morning opened the Hundred Houses Society Lilley Close Development, Water Street, Chesterton and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr Michael Bevan) and Mr G.J Heath (Chairman, Hundred House Society).

His Royal Highness, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, afterwards visited Hills Road Sixth Form College and was received by Mrs D.M. Abbott (Chairman of the Governors) and Mr C.A. Greenhalgh (Principal).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of the University of Cambridge Kurt Hahn Trust, afterwards attended a lunch at Wolfson College.

Lieutenant-Commander Malcolm Sillars, RN was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 8: The Princess Royal today visited Wiltshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire (Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs).

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visited Mayflower Mohair, Temple Farm, Rockley, Marlborough.

Afterwards, The Princess Royal opened the new Access Computer Centre at Swindon College for Students with disabilities.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 8: The Duchess of York, President of Action Research, this morning attended the launch of *Esquire* magazine and accepted a contribution from the National Magazine Company on behalf of Action Research at a breakfast held at Claridge's, Brook Street, London W1.

Miss Lucy Manners and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Norman Adams, painter and ceramic sculptor, 64; Mr Brian Bennett, Shadows' drummer, 51; Dr Hubert Burda, publisher, 51; Mr Ryland Davies, tenor, 48; Air Commandant B.M. Ducat-Amos, former director, RAF Nursing Service, 70; Lord Evans of Claughton, 63; Miss Mia Farrow, actress, 46; Dr Garret FitzGerald, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, 65; Mr Bernard Gallacher, golfer, 42; Dr George Guest, organist, 67; Mr Justice Johnson, 58; Mr Ben E. King, singer, 49; Mr Sandy Lyle, golfer, 33; Sir Donald Miller, chairman, South of Scotland Electricity Board, 64; Lord Pearce, 90; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Eric Penn, former comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's Office, 75; Mr Dean Rusk, former American Secretary of State, 82; Miss Janet Suzman, actress, 52; Mr Brian Wenham, former managing-director, BBC Radio, 54; Lord Williams of Elvel, 58.

TOMORROW: Mr Larry Adler, mouth organist, 77; Dame Judith Anderson, actress, 93; Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, 64; Mr Danny Blanchflower, footballer, 65; Miss Olwyn Bowey, painter, 55; Mrs Elisabeth Carson, lieder singer, 99; Dr Alexander Comfort, physician, poet and novelist, 71, Professor J. Heslop-Harrison, botanist, 71; Lord Milne, 82; Mr Greg Norman, golfer, 36; Lord Orr-Ewing, 79; Group Captain Sir Gordon Pirie, 73; Miss Leontyne Price, soprano, 64; Sir Idwal Pugh, former Ombudsman, 73; Air Marshal Sir William Richardson, 59; Mr Justice Rose, 54; Mr Mark Spitz, swimmer, 41.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: William Henry Harrison, 9th president of the USA, 1841, Berkeley, Virginia, 1773; Edward Carson, 1st Baron Carson, lawyer, leader of the Irish Unionist party, Dublin, 1854; Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress, London, 1865; Amy Lowell, poet and critic, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1874; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1885; Brendan Behan, writer, Dublin, 1923.

DEATHS: John Hooper, bishop of Worcester, burnt at the stake, Gloucester, 1555; Nevil Maskelyne, astronomer-royal, 1765-1811, Greenwich, 1811; Fyodor Dostoevsky, novelist, Leningrad, 1881; Sir Truby King, pioneer of mothercraft, Wellington, New Zealand, 1938; Norman Douglas, essayist and novelist, Capri, 1952; Bill Haley, rock singer, 1981; Yuri Andropov, general secretary of the Soviet Communist party, 1982-84, Moscow, 1984. Lord Darnley, consort of Mary Queen of Scots was murdered, Edinburgh, 1567.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Charles Lamb, essayist, London, 1775; Samuel Plimsoll, the "sailors' friend", Bristol, 1824; Aleksandr Pushkin, writer, Leningrad, 1837; Boris Pasternak, poet and novelist, Moscow, 1890; Harold Macmillan, 1st Earl of Stockton, prime minister 1957-63, London, 1894; Bertolt Brecht, dramatist and theatre director, Augsburg, Germany, 1898.

DEATHS: David Thompson, explorer in Canada, Longeuil, Quebec, 1857; David Brewster, philosopher, Allerby, Melrose, 1868; Joseph Lister, 1st Baron Lister, surgeon, pioneer of antiseptic surgery, Walmer, Kent, 1912; Wilhelm Konrad von Röntgen, discoverer of X-rays, Nobel laureate 1901, Munich, 1923.

The marriage of Queen Victoria to Francis-Albert, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, 1840. Conscription began in Britain, 1916. Pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) system of income tax was introduced, 1944.

Reception

HM Government
Mr Michael Forsyth, Minister for State at the Scottish Office, was host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday in Edinburgh Castle for the World Schools Debating Championships.

Dinner

HM Government
Mr Michael Forsyth, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, was host at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government last night in Edinburgh Castle for health board chairmen.

Malcolm Muggeridge

A Memorial Requiem Mass for Malcolm Muggeridge will be celebrated by Cardinal Hume on Tuesday, February 26, 1991, at 12 noon in Westminster Cathedral.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Miss M.L. Rothwell, aged 52, Ambassador at Abidjan, to be additionally Ambassador (non-resident) to the the People's Democratic Republic of Burkina, in succession to Mrs V.E. Sutherland, who has taken up a new appointment in London.

Mr A.C.D.S. MacRae, aged 53, High Commissioner-designate to Nigeria, to be concurrently Ambassador (non-resident) to the Republic of Benin in succession to Mr B.L. Barder, who will be taking on a further Diplomatic Service appointment.

Today's royal engagements

TODAY: Prince Edward will attend the St John Ambulance Valentine Ball at the Dorchester hotel at 8pm.

Institute of Physics

The following awards have been announced:

Bragg medal & prize: Dr K W Kochanek, lately Rector of Roehampton Institute of Higher Education, for distinguished contributions to physics teaching; Charles Chree medal & prize: Prof I. Thomas, head of geomagnetism at Aberystwyth University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, theoretical and experimental studies of upper atmospheric; Charles Vernon Boys prize: Dr R S Pardin, IBM Research Laboratory, San Jose, California, organic super-conductivity, high temperature superconductivity and magnetic superlattices; Duddell medal & prize: Dr K Firth and Dr D J Hubbard, GEC Hirst Research Centre, Wembley, respectively design and development of high performance aircraft "head up" displays.

Glazebrook medal & prize: Sir F Graham-Smith, FRS, Manchester University, astronomy and astrophysics; Guthrie medal & prize: Prof D W Sciama, International School of Advanced Studies, Italy, theoretical astrophysics; Max Born medal & prize: Dr M E Cates, Cavendish Laboratory, physics of macromolecules.

Paterson medal & prize: Dr P F Fewster, Philips Research Laboratories, new techniques to analyse x-ray patterns; Paul Dirac medal & prize: Sir R Peierls, FRS, contributions to theoretical physics; Thomas Young medal & prize: Dr P Hartherau, Sydney, Australia, contributions to interferometry and holography.

Dr J.H. Gilbert
and Miss J.E. Braithwaite

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Captain and Mrs Michael H. Gilbert, of Yelverton, Devon, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Braithwaite, of Dawlish, Devon.

Mr J. Goford
and Miss D.J. Arkle

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr Ronald Goford and the late Mrs Julia Goford, of Havant, Hampshire, and Jane, daughter of Dr James Arkle and Mrs Doreen Arkle, of Streatley, Berkshire.

Mr C.K.E. Graham
and Miss R.J. Rich

The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs Max Graham, of Dublin, Ireland, and Rosemary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Walter Rich, of Exeter, Devon.

Dr D. Joffe
and Miss S.M. Stain

The engagement is announced between David, son of Dr and Mrs Joffe, of Sydney, Australia, and Sara, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Stain, of Ealing, London.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. Clayhills-Henderson
and Miss P. Stewart

The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Captain David Clayhills-Henderson, of Stoneygroves Farm, Muirhead, Dundee, and the late Mrs Pamela Clayhills-Henderson, and Pamela, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Stewart, of Fir Lodge, Moyness Park Drive, Blairgowrie.

Mr R.A.B. Cross
and the Hon S.M. Richards

The engagement is announced between Rab, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.A. Cross, of Tavistock, Devon, and Susan, elder daughter of the Rev Lord and Lady Milverton, of Christian Malford, Wiltshire.

Mr S.R. Dukes
and Miss S.M. Butler

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Harold Dukes, of Milhouses, Sheffield, and Susan, daughter of Mrs Jane Butler, and the late Mr Paul Butler, of Shapwick, Dorset.

OBITUARIES

SIR ANTHONY SWANN

Sir Anthony Swann, Bt, CMG, OBE, a former provincial commissioner and minister for defence and internal security in Kenya, died on February 3, aged 77. He was born on June 29, 1913.



"TONY" Swann was an outstanding example of those administrative officers who, recruited to the Colonial Service before the war, found themselves not long after it holding positions of great responsibility and dealing remarkably with forces and events which had little regard to their earlier experiences.

After Eton and New College, Oxford, Swann joined the Colonial Administrative Service in Kenya in 1936, a colony he was to serve with style and distinction for more than 25 years. When Italy entered the war in May 1940, Swann badgered his way into the King's African Rifles (the provincial administration was very much a reserved occupation) and served throughout the Ethiopian campaign, attaining field rank and taking part in the final battle at Gondar.

A short spell in the secretariat had been enough to give Swann a career-long suspicion of the central government's remoteness from the real world of district administration and on returning from the war he was posted to the Kericho district, first as district officer and then as district commissioner. There he struck up a remarkable rapport with the Kipsigis and headed an able district team which helped to bring about an early revolution in Kipsigis farming methods. At the same time he astonished the hitherto neglected European farmers in the "settled" areas of Sotik, Lumbwa and Songhor by visiting their farms and listening to their woes.

Swann was posted to the Central Province shortly before the start of the Mau Mau Emergency and was one of those district commissioners who gave early warning of approaching trouble in the Kikuyu districts. The extent to which these warnings were heeded by the central government remains a matter of controversy. Certainly, when the emergency came Swann was very soon in the thick of it as district commissioner, Kiambu (where the Lari massacre occurred in 1953).

His gift for welding together a team, this time involving the security forces, was put to good use and it was no surprise when, in 1955, he was put in charge of the whole Central Province as provincial commissioner, a position he later held in Nyanza.

When, following the Hola "incident" in 1959, in which a number of Mau Mau detainees were beaten up by some of the camp guards, and were killed, it became urgently necessary to make changes at the top in Nairobi. Swann was an obvious choice as minister for defence and internal security. There, as the security situation gradually returned to normal and it became increasingly clear that Kenya, like its neighbouring territories, was moving towards independence, he turned his attention to the Africanisation of the security forces, and quietly used his reputation among the white farming community, upon whose efforts the Kenya economy still at that time largely relied, to reassure them about the future security situation.

When, in 1959, the Colonial Office assumed financial responsibility for the local armed forces of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, their administration became the responsibility of the East African Land Forces Organisation, of which Swann became chairman.

If Swann was sometimes sharply critical of the spirit of the times, and for a senior official was perhaps more comfortably at home in the Muthaiga Club than within the portals of Government House, he inspired great loyalty and deep affection among those who served with him, and he is one of those to whom much credit is due for the smooth transition of Kenya from colonial rule to independence. One of the two last colonial civil servants to hold ministerial office, he retired from Kenya in 1963.

He was a lover of racing, and a series of telegrams to the *Government Coast Agent*, Mombasa, each one increasingly stressing the overriding importance of securing an early passage home to attend to urgent private business, was in fact to make sure that he was back in England in time for the Derby.

He is survived by his wife, Jean, together with their son, Michael, who succeeds to the baronetcy.

WING COMMANDER RODNEY KNOCKER

Wing Commander William Rodney Alexander Knocker, Battle of Britain pilot, has died at Watamu, Kenya, aged 70. He was born on March 31, 1920

PROBABLY fewer than 50 Royal Air Force pilots flew Defiants during the Battle of Britain, and those like Rodney Knocker who did found the odds heavily stacked against them. Flying officer Rodney Knocker was with No 264 Squadron (motto: "We Defy") at Oxford and Hornchurch from which he and his gunner flew both day and night sorties.

The day flying operations of the two Defiant squadrons which took part in the battle were conducted at a fearful cost, especially when the aircraft was pitted against the Messerschmitt Me 109, and it required a good deal of bravery to fly it in combat against the best interceptor the Luftwaffe had at its disposal.

Knocker was the son of a solicitor. After schooling at Wellington College, Berkshire, he went to St John's College, Oxford, to read jurisprudence, in Michaelmas term 1938. But a year later he threw up his studies to join the RAF. Initial training took him to Cambridge and within weeks he joined only the second flying course since the outbreak of war, at Cranwell.

A spell at No 5 Flying Training Squadron at Sealand, near Chester, and further experience at the school of army co-operation, Old Sarum, Wiltshire, suggested that he might specialise in Lysanders. But a conversion course on Boulton Paul Defiants steered him firmly towards Fighter Command and in mid-June he was posted to Duxford, where 264 Squadron was heavily engaged in the air operations leading up to the rapidly approaching Battle of Britain.

The Defiant was a two-man crew aeroplane with a hydraulically operated dorsal gun turret which greatly increased drag and hampered its performance as an interceptor fighter. It was 60mph slower than than the Me 109; nevertheless the squadron's aircraft had had considerable success against German fighters over the Belgian coast and Dunkirk in May 1940, perhaps due to the Defiant's superficial resemblance to the Hurricane, which caused opponents to hesitate. Its commander, Squadron Leader Philip Hunter, was a seasoned 27-year-old who with his gunner, Pilot Officer Fred King, had scored several air victories.

By the time the Battle of Britain opened, however, the Defiant's novelty value had ceased to be an asset and the German fighters were swiftly learning how to deal with it. By the time Knocker joined it No 264 was beginning to take a systematic mauling from the vastly superior Me 109 and for a period was withdrawn to Lincolnshire.

In August the squadron moved south again, to Hornchurch, and on a bad day, August 24, the commanding officer and his crewman were lost. On that same day Knocker and his gunner claimed a Junkers Ju 88. This was the end of 264 as a day fighting unit. Thereafter both Defiant squadrons were converted to night fighters and 264 spent another period based in Lincolnshire, intercepting night raids on Manchester.

Knocker had some hair-raising experiences. In November 1940 his Defiant caught fire and he had to make an emergency landing on a golf course near Southend. While night intercepting in May 1941, he had the mortification to be shot down over London by anti-aircraft fire.

By the end of the war Knocker was a squadron leader and he was released from the RAF as a wing commander in 1946. For many years he lived in Kenya. He leaves a widow, Jean.

HERZL ROSENBLUM

Dr Herzl Rosenblum, Israeli newspaper editor, died in Tel Aviv on February 2, aged 87. He was born in Kaunas, Lithuania, in September, 1903.

DR HERZL Rosenblum, a signatory to the Israeli Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948, was editor of *Yediot Aharonot*, claimed to be Israel's biggest selling daily newspaper, until his retirement last year.

Born in Kaunas, Lithuania, in 1903, he was educated at the town's local commercial school and went on to study at the university of Vienna, where he gained a first in law followed by a doctorate in international public law. He never practised law, however, and went straight into journalism on his return to Lithuania and soon became a popular columnist.

He wrote with great facility and faultlessly in Russian, Lithuanian, Yiddish, Hebrew and German. In the early 1930s he moved to London where he worked as a foreign correspondent and as press adviser to Vladimir Jabotinsky, the leader of the revisionist party, but never became a party politician.

In 1935 he settled in Palestine, as it then was, and became the deputy editor of *Haboker*, a liberal quality daily newspaper. In 1950 he moved to *Yediot Aharonot* as editor-in-chief, a position he occupied with great distinction until his retirement. He continued to write his acclaimed essays virtually until his death.

Rosenblum joined the liberal State Party but was never an active politician. In 1988 he published a book of memoirs, *A Drop in the Ocean*. He was considered a man of the Right but was never deeply engaged in party politics and kept his newspaper as a non-political press organ.

He was the first to warn against the evils of Stalinism and he was the formulator of the doctrine that the Jewish/Arab conflict was, in the main, a function of the cold war. He argued for many years that Russian Jews would come in large numbers to Israel as soon as the cold war ended, a prophecy he saw become reality with the mass Jewish emigration from Russia to Israel that is still continuing.

In local politics, in areas such as the national health service, housing, employment and wages, he was a liberal but sometimes swung very much to the Left. He always argued that a person did not have to be a reactionary, in the days of Stalin, to be anti-Soviet, a view he held until the start of perestroika.

When the Declaration of Independence was published under the leadership of David Ben-Gurion he was invited, as the representative of the smallest party, the State Party, to be a signatory. His signature appears on the declaration as Herzl Vardi, the Hebrew translation of Rosenblum.

Rosenblum is survived by his widow, Lena, and a son, Moshe Vardi, who is now editor of *Yediot Aharonot*.

SIR WILLIAM LEECH

Lord Walton of Detchant writes:

YOUR obituary notice to Sir William Leech paid due tribute to the charitable donations which he made to many worthy causes and not least to the Church. However, the major contributions which he made to medicine and to medical science by endowing innumerable posts at readership and lecturer level in the medical faculty of Newcastle university may have been overlooked.

These benefactions led the medical faculty to recommend to the university that one of the principal blocks of the new medical school in Newcastle should be named the Leech Building to acknowledge his outstanding generosity. When I was dean of medicine in the university and served for several years as a trustee of his property trust, I came to know him well, just as all who came into contact with him respected not only his generosity but his acumen, judgment and human warmth based upon his unfailing Christian beliefs.

While he made many notable and substantial donations to innumerable good causes, no cause in his beloved North-East, however small, failed to command his attention.

He was very proud to have been made an honorary Doctor of Civil Law of Newcastle university in 1975 and that university will always be in his debt.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev David N Wales, curate, with senior responsibility in the parish of Lindale, diocese of Oxford, to be priest-in-charge, Weston Turville, same diocese.

The Rev James F Wellington, Vicar, Great Glen cum Stretton Magna and Whatborough with Illston Parochial, diocese of Leicester, to be also Warden of Diocesan Association of Readers, same diocese.

The Rev Ian White, curate, Earley St Peter's, Reading, diocese of Oxford, to be Team Vicar, Quainton, in the Schorne Team, same diocese.

The Rev David Willerabben, curate, Christ Church, Ince, diocese of Liverpool, to be minister-in-charge, St Andrew, St Helens, same diocese.

The Rev Andrew E. Williams, parish deacon, St Mary the Virgin, Maidstone, diocese of Canterbury, to be parish deacon, Rotherden, St Mary the Virgin, same diocese.

The Rev John Wilmington, Vicar, St Nicholas with St Mary, Perivale, diocese of London, to be Vicar, South Acton, same diocese.

The Rev John Wood, curate, Emmanuel, Northwood, diocese of London, to be priest-in-charge, St James, Muswell Hill, same diocese.

Registrations and retirements

The Rev Herbert Bellough, Rector, St Cuthbert, Halsall, diocese of Liverpool, to retire as from 31 May.

Canon William A V Cummings, Rector, St Mary with St Michael Stoke, Weston Margaret with Marys, Rural Dean of Depwade and surrogate honorary canon of Norwich Cathedral, diocese of Norwich, to resign as Rural Dean of Depwade as from February 28.

The Rev John Hedges, Vicar, St George's, Tilehurst, Reading, diocese of Oxford, resigned as from December 16, 1990.

Canon John Long, Rector, Broughton, Marton and Thornton, diocese of Bradford, retired as from January 31.

The Rev Kenneth B McAlister, Rector, Ripley with Burnt Yates, diocese of Ripon, to retire as from April 6.

The Rev Harold Sanderson, Vicar, St Mark, Scarisbrick and Chaplain to New Hall Hospital, diocese of Liverpool, to retire as from April 30.

Church of Scotland

Inductions

The Rev Anne T Logan to St George's, Edinburgh (associate).

The Rev A A S Reid to Chalmers, Bridge of Allan.

Translations

The Rev J F Catherer from Westerton (assisted) to Dalmuir Barclay, Dunbarton.

The Rev T Wilson from Banholm and Johnshaven to North of St Andrew, Aberdeen.

Retirements

The Rev J T Lang from St James Pollok, Glasgow.

The Rev Peter Martin from Pitlochry East Parish Church.

The Rev A E Miller from St Stephen's, Perth.

Ordinations and inductions

The Rev N J Dougall to St David's Broomhouse, Glasgow.

The Rev D R Lawrie to Campbeltown Highland.

The Rev John R Wells to Morningside Road, Edinburgh.

Church in Wales

Diocese of St Asaph

Canon E Glyn Price, Vicar of Buckley, to be Vicar of Llandrillo-yn-Rhos.

Heath bought by RSPB

Stoborough Heath, occupying 272 acres of Purbeck, in Dorset, has been purchased by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds as the first step in its campaign to reverse the loss of lowland heath in Britain (John Young writes).

It lies between two other areas to the east and west, together forming the largest stretch of almost uninterrupted heathland outside the New Forest. It will be managed to encourage the proliferation of rare bird species, including the Dartford warbler, nightjar and stonechat, and reptiles such as the smooth snake and sand lizard.

Since 1750, 86 per cent of the heathland which once characterised the county is estimated to have been lost and the total is down to only 5,670 hectares (about 14,200 acres). Britain contains 56,000 hectares, 45 per cent of the total in western Europe, which in theory is protected under the Council of Europe's Berne convention and the European Community's directive on conservation of rare birds.

But it is still threatened by housing and roads, uncontrolled recreational use, and poor management.

University news

Oxford

Elections

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE
To a Clothworkers' exhibition in philosophy and modern languages: Kathryn Curtis; Deakin exhibitions in modern languages: Samantha Marshall; in history and modern languages: Phillippa Wright.

Polytechnic news

Brighton

The following are to be appointed honorary fellows:

Mr Kenneth Cooper, chief executive, British Library; Dr Geoffrey Hatcher, consultant paediatrician; Dr David A. Jones, president, Institution of Electrical Engineers; Professor Geoffrey Hall, formerly polytechnic director.

Viaduct gift

The disused Leaderfoot viaduct, which spans the river Tweed at Drygrange, near Melrose, in the Borders, is to be given to the nation by the British Rail Property Board. The 19-arched viaduct, completed in 1865, is to become an industrial monument open to the public.

Radleian Society

The AGM of the Radleian Society will take place at Radley in the Singleton Library at 6pm on Sunday, February 17.

Celebration of Scots architecture

By Charles Knevitt
Architecture Correspondent

MORE than 50 drawings by some of the great names of Scottish architecture, including Alexander "Greek" Thomson and Charles Rennie Mackintosh, have arrived in London for an exhibition celebrating 150 years of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS).

Founded in 1840 as the Institute of Architects in Scotland, six years after what is now the Riba, the RIAS has one of the finest collections of work in Britain. The exhibition, "For A Wee Country", which also includes 30 large photographs and an accompanying text by Charles McKean traces the evolution of architecture from the Athens of the North, in the 1840s, to the renewed interest in Scottish regionalism today.

Among the drawings is Thomas Hamilton's unbuilt Royal Scottish Academy, St Vincent Street church, by Thomson, Mackintosh's Queen Margaret Hall and the re-occupation of the Royal Mile by Sir Patrick Geddes.

More recent projects include St Charles church by Gillespie Kidd & Coia, the Burrell Gallery by Barry Gasson and RMJM's Glasgow Concert Hall. The so-called Hanging Gardens of Hutchensontown, by Sir Basil Spence, and proposals by Assist Architects for Blochairn Co-op, complete the comprehensive view. In 1840 the wealthier citizens were leaving the cities for the suburbs and beyond, a process which had come full circle by the 1980s, as the exhibition shows.

Sponsored by BP Exploration, the exhibition is at the Building Centre, Store Street, until February 28.

Church services tomorrow

Seventh Sunday before Easter

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Rev P F Hubbi; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Gould); Ave Maria (Stravinsky). Rev P G C Bratt; 3.15 E & admission of a verger. Rossini (Advent). Evens in F. Os Justi (Bruckner). 6.30 Sermon & Compline, the Dean.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Joseph). Rev L Cayley; 11.30 M, Responses (Tunnicliffe), Rise in G & E Murrill in E. Greater love (Ireland). Canon R Mayfield.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Responses (Smith). Sursum in G, the Dean; 11.30 HC, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart). Jesu dulcis memoria (Anon); 3.15 E, Magnificat (Gwynne). Greater love (Ireland). Ven G Cassidy.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Rev Canon R Chesterton. Collegium Regale (Howells). Behold the tabernacle of God (Harris). Canon A Harvey; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Rev Canon A Harvey; 3 E, Wesley in E. Blessed is he (Lightfoot). Give peace, a new commandment (Leighton Wright).

هكذا من الأصل

I tell you, then the great love this woman has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven. But whoever has been forgiven little shows only a little love. St. Luke 7:47 ONB

BIRTHS

FEARON - On February 7th, at The Portland Hospital, to Crin (née Negretti) and Guy, a son, Christopher, a brother for Camilla.

HURLEY - On February 3rd, to Ruth (née Cassidi) and Robert, a daughter, Fiona Mesan.

JENNINGS - On February 6th, at St. Julien-En-Genevois, France, to Pamela and James, Anna Francesca, a sister for David and Adam.

DEATHS

BEAMISH - On February 7th, at Orchard Close Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells, Vivien, elder daughter of the late Rear-Admiral Tufton Beamish and his wife Margaret.

DOWNSHIRE - On February 8th peacefully in Marlborough, Michael, loving husband of Rosemary Dwosse father of Saran, Jonathan and Nicola and adored and cosy grandfather of Emma, Rupert, Clura and Jesse Sam. Private funeral. Memorial service to be announced later.

EVERY - On February 6th, 1991, at Park Abbey Nursing Home, Wartingham, Agnes Milly, aged 91 Beloved wife of Canon Edward Every, formerly of Jerusalem, the daughter of Colonel and Mrs Sotheo-Symons, for many years Flat Adela in the Jordanian Department of Hearth. She would greet the Jordanians and Palestinians who may remember her Her funeral will be at The Parish Church of All Saints, Wartingham, at 2.30 pm, on Monday February 18th.

GASSON - On February 6th 1991, peacefully at home after a short illness courageously borne David Michael, aged 82 years. Dearly loved husband of Kathleen and father of Joanne, Julian and Catherine. Funeral service private. No flowers by request please, donations may be given to Cancer Research c/o Stocking Funeral Service, 22 Crescent Street, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 7BX. Enquiries Tel. 03093 785916. A Thanksgiving Service for the life of David will take place on Saturday February 23rd at 11.30am at St Osmunds Church, Osmington, Dorset.

GIBSON - On February 3rd at her home, after suffering arthritis for many years, Saran, aged 71, much loved wife of Alfred Sadly missed by family and friends. Private cremation took place on February 8th at Salisbury.

GRANT - On February 4th 1991, in Dublin after a long illness, Joan Penelope, Lady Grant, daughter of Sir Denzil Cope Bt., wife of the late Sir Duncan Grant Bt., of Daivey Sadly missed by her children, Sir Patrick, Denzil, Drostan, Fiona and Maria Theresa. Funeral 11am, Monday February 11th at The Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, Mount Pleasant, Ranelagh, Dublin. thence to Clane, Co Kildare Donations in memory to The Parkinsons Disease Society, 36, Portland Place, London, W1N 3DG.

LE SEELLEUR - On Thursday Feorvary 7th, 1991 Derek of St. Clement, Jersey, peacefully at The Jersey General Hospital, aged 66 years. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Enquiries to H W Mallard & Son Limited (Funeral Directors), Jersey tel: 0534 37291.

NEWMAN - On February 7th, 1991, at her home in Aldeburgh, Anne, beloved wife of Phillip, and mother of Richard, Tony and Penny. Thanksgiving Service at Aldeburgh Parish Church, on Wednesday February 13th, at 1.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. If desired donations for Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital, c/o Tony Brown's, The Funeral Parlour, Chantry Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

PRICE - On February 7th, 1991, peacefully in a Nursing Home, at Kingswood, Surrey, Joseph Edelsten, aged 93 years. Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Monday February 18th at 2.00 pm. Flowers and enquiries to W A Trueiove & Son, Sutton, Surrey Tel 081 642 8211

ROOKE On February 5th, Peter Bruce de Trafford. Due to adverse weather conditions funeral postponed until Tuesday February 19th, 2.45 p.m. at R.M.A. Sandhurst.

RUSSELL - On February 7th 1991 peacefully at Dunoon and District General Hospital, Penelope Dorothy beloved wife of Thomas Moir Russell and a dear mother of Andrew, Lee, Quentin and Becky and a much loved grandmother.

SANGER - On February 7th 1991, suddenly, Maureen (Dodeen) adored wife of John. Much loved mother of Liz, Jill, Tina and Jeffrey and her grandchildren. Service Bury Parish Church on Thursday, February 14th at 12 noon followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for The Imperial Cancer Research Fund may be sent c/o F. A. Holland & Son, Terminus Rd., Little Hampton. Tel: 0903 713939

THOMPSON On Wednesday February 6th 1991, peacefully at home, Nancy Thompson (née Archdale) of Eileen, Rushbrook House, Aberfeldy Widow of Tommy Thompson. Funeral private, no flowers by request.

TRESAWNA - On February 6th 1991, suddenly at home, Nancie. Funeral Service 2.30pm Wednesday February 13th at Probus Parish Church. Family flowers only but donations if desired for Probus Church c/o Terence Treguniss F.D., 49 Kenwyn St. Truro, Cornwall.

TUCK On February 5th, 1991, peacefully at home, Ralph, loving husband of Helen, dear dad of Rod, father-in-law of Margaret and much loved grandad of Victoria and James. Private cremation service in Norwich on Monday, February 11th followed by Memorial Service at 2.30pm at All Saints Church, Dickleburgh, near Diss, Norfolk. Family flowers only please but donations for the Big 'C' Appeal are being accepted c/o B. Rivett Ltd., Funeral Directors, 15 Carlton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0BU. Tel. (0502) 573632.

WALKER - On February 6th 1991 peacefully in hospital, Irene of Devizes, Wilts., widow of Ronald, mother of Hugh and grandmother of James and Nicholas Cremation at Haycombe, Bath on Wednesday, February 13th, at 2.20 pm. No flowers please, donations to charity.

WHITE - On February 6th, peacefully and bravely in Woking, Stanley Robert, aged 81, beloved husband of the late Anne Molloy, dear father to Charles and Bobby-Anne Shelly missed by all his family and many friends around the world Cremation at St John's, Woking, on Tuesday, February 12th, at 11.30am. Donations in lieu of flowers to Friends of the Elderly.

WOLTERS - On February 7th, 1991, peacefully, the Very Revd. Clifton Wolters, aged 81 years, beloved husband of Joy, Provost Emeritus of the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle upon Tyne. Requiem Mass at St. Saviour and St. Peter, Eastbourne, Sussex, on Monday, February 18th at 2.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but if desired, donations to Cancer Research.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

HELLINGS - June Due to the adverse weather conditions, the Funeral Service due to be held on Monday, February 11th, will now take place at 12.30 pm on Friday, February 15th at Chelmsford Crematorium.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DUFF Robin of Meldrum, a Service of Thanksgiving for the life and works of Robin Duff of Meldrum, St. Paul's Church, Bedford St., Covent Garden, Wednesday, February 27th at 11.30 am.

FRINGLE Ian Gordon St Clair Thanksgiving service is postponed until 12 noon, 16th February at Harringworth Church, Northants.

TWENTYMAN-TURNBULL Due to unforeseen weather the Memorial Service for John has been postponed till further notice.

WHEELER - A memorial service for Michael (Mac) Wheeler will be held on Wednesday February 27th, at 2.15 p.m., in the Chapel of Brighton College, Eastern Rd., Brighton. His many friends are invited to attend

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

ECKERSALL - Ronald Michael. Remembered with love on your birthday and always.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CHELTENHAM race course - 10 miles - comfortable Ravenscar accomodation 0451 850582

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CLARINET, B flat, Boosey and Hawkes, excellent condition, £180 o.n.o 041 778 0370.

CORNISH cove daycost read trainer, new cover £2250. Tel. Taunton 0823 445792

BEAR Dad, happy birthday for tomorrow, lots of love Lisa and Paul.xxx.

DOC Rosenfeld I Love you! Happy V-Day, Love C.

FORD Escort 1.4L 1986 MOT, tax, excellent condition, first-gear £2,650 (081) 474 5421

FRANCE, happy 19th birthday Best wishes to Dack as well U.

GOLF GLS metallic green 1980 Automatic good condition £1095 o.n.o 081 3460142.

HAPPY birthday Maid Marion with love from Dai Hard AKA Ralph Higginthwaite

HENNERS happy birthday for the 14th. You are my dream Valentine. Love Kizzie.

HONDA Prelude 1800 cesr 3600 mi v.g.c. D reg. £6,300. 0772 881406. After 5pm.

HONOURS degree fashion textiles seeks an interesting job Tel:0622793680 .

JUSTINE, dearest, Valentines day and forever my undying love is yours. Steve.

KENNY, Frank, Happy birthday for the 14th febuary Grandad Best wishes, Grannem

LISA Claire Freshwater, happy 18th birthday; love from all the family

LOWER sloway house to let, scenic location, sleeps 4/6 all amenities. 071 262 5647

LORNA (c) Lawrence wishing you a happy Valentines Day. Lots of love, Charles. x

MARK Booker Happy 18th birthday Good luck and best wishes, Becky xx

MEDICAL books for sale. Price negotiable. Tel: 0784 64668.

MINI 1978 red, vgc, MOT, ideal 1st car/spec. £980 ono. Tel: 081 946 6984

MIO, have a brilliant 18th on the 16th lots of love, Becky.

MYSTERY comedy dazzling spectacular Rosemary College Cambridge (3t 1453). Opens 26/2.

PEMBREKE'S professionally prepared Good rates. Fast service. Tel: Victoria 0265 34854

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RICHARD writer Happy birth day Love you forever G.R.

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROBERT Browning and Emma, congratulations on your coming together

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ST7LC will you stays be my Valentine? I'll love you forever JB

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SUSIE, Happy birthday 9th Feb Many happy returns Nadia, Sandra, Mum & Dad.

TO LAURENCE Ashby happy 18th birthday I've bought you a pair paired blue Darts. Caroline.

TYPEWRITER Manual, Silver-Reed 500 As new, + 3 replacement ribbons £60 071 603 6813

WENDY Have a smashing 18th birthday with love and best wishes. Serena

WHEEL/tyre for Peugeot 205 1 9 GTI £35. (0222) 708968 after 6pm.

BIRTHDAYS

LAWTON Happy birthday to our little princess Beth 3 today. We all love you very much. Mum, Dad, Dozer, Woozy xxxxxxx

SERVICES

AFTER-DINNER Speakers, famous faces, personal appearances. MBM 0453 419466

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TICKETS FOR SALE

When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment.

BRIDGE Books required Old auction & contract. Tel: 071 581 2424 Room 38.

TEST-SEE Sleepers sought by the Swallow hotel, Bournemouth, the Club's 1st 5 star hotel. Preferably people familiar with 1st-class international hotels. Please telephone 021 486 3063 on Monday 11th or Tuesday 12th February 9am to 5pm.

FOR SALE

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PERELLI Calendar 1973 (Alan Jones), good condition. Offers Ring 0386 462083 eves.

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CONCERT / FOLK HARPS Showroom open for visits Details Tel 036786 693, fax 036786 689

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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TWO

BEING SINGLE IS FINE:
As she watched his face in the
BUT NOT ALWAYS IDEAL
flickering light, he tucked
MEETING SOMEONE
a wisp of hair behind her ear
SPECIAL
Words tumble
ISN'T ALWAYS EASY
like a pebble brook.
WE UNDERSTAND.
eyes laugh, hands touch.
CALL US AT
The day drifts away
BOND STREET.
Rita woodsmoke on
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morning raist. Thats two

TWO

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CHARLES Hugh Clere Mortimer of 80A Drayton Road Ealing, London W13 died on 5th January 1990 Particulars to Gustard Davis & Baldwin Solicitors of 194 Upper Green East Mitcham CR4 2XD before 18th April 1991

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HART Wilhelmina Juliana of 11 Kent House Courtlands Sheen Road Richmond Surrey died on 8th January 1991 Particulars to Howard Schneider Sears & Steele, Solicitors of Hillside House 2/6 Friern Park London N12 9BY on or before 22nd April 1991

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION NO 000756 OF 1990

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUTTON DISTRICT WATER PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 15th January 1991 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £854,830 to £57,750.20

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr Justice Harman at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on Monday 18th February 1991.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 9th day of February 1991

Beachcroft Stanleys, 20 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1BN
Solicitors for the above-named Company

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MARIE CURIE

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 9 1880

The first production in English of Wagner's "Lohengrin", thirty years after the opera's debut in Weimar under the baton of Liszt, was received with a warmth that may have surprised the purists. It formed part of a London season by the Carl Rosa Opera company which included, also in English, "Mignon" and "Aida".

'LOHENGRIN" in ENGLISH

Those who differ most widely in their views of Wagner's music agree on the one point, that it is inseparably wedded to the words, taking from them not only its poetic inspiration, but its very form and principle of development. Deprive it of this basis, and it loses its deeper significance as well as its peculiar power and impressiveness. Were it only for this reason, we should call the performance of *Lohengrin* at Her Majesty's Theatre on Saturday virtually the first in England.

Elsa and the Knight of the Swan singing in a language comprehensible only to a small proportion of the audience may attract a vague sort of interest; they can never speak immediately to the heart in the strong accents of dramatic pathos intended by the composer. That this power is now restored to them is due to the manly and expressive English of Mr. J.P. Jackson's translation, which adapts itself to the original to a degree wholly unobtainable in the mellifluous language of Petrarch and Tasso. But, apart from this most important point, the performance on Saturday was infinitely superior to anything we have seen on the Italian stage of this country, and we greatly doubt whether its general efficiency has been frequently surpassed in Germany, if we except the production of the opera at Weimar and other special occasions.

The reasons for such a success are not far to seek. In the first instance, great praise is due to Mr. Randegger, who had evidently rehearsed the opera with the utmost care, justly choosing to produce it a few days after the date originally advertised rather than bring it out punctually but imperfectly.

Mr. Betjeman, the stage manager, also deserves his share of commendation. The dramatic power of some of the situations was placed in an entirely new light by his judicious arrangements. Thus, the arrival of the boat drawn by a swan, announced by the excited shouts of the multitude long before it becomes visible to the audience, was highly effective, equal praise being due to the very difficult arrangement of the bridal procession, twice interrupted, and to the opening scene of the third act. Here and elsewhere, due attention had been paid to Wagner's own minute stage directions, and the result was a comparative freedom from ordinary "stageyness", too rarely seen in operatic performances.

We next must mention the representatives of the chief parts. Let it be said of them first collectively that they one and all entered into the spirit of the drama, and in consequence felt themselves part of a whole. Hence they acted and sang at each other and not at the audience, and there were only one or two instances of the *harangue*, so common on the operatic stage and so much deprecated by Wagner. It is obvious that the perfect *ensemble* resulting from these circumstances is all but impossible with operative troupe assembled from all the quarters of Heaven with the view chiefly of serving as a foil to one or two great artists.

The members of Mr. Rosa's company are perfectly acquainted with one another's artistic idiosyncracies, and the "star" system is unknown among them The story of *Lohengrin*, it should be remembered, is of British origin It belongs to that wave of mythical lore which, during the Middle Ages, kept sweeping across the British Channel... Certain it is that, with the exception of Herr Schott, the cast of *Lohengrin* consists of English singers, and that the representation as a whole need not shun comparison with any that may be witnessed at the best theatres in Germany.

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WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 22

KEESHOND
(a) A medium-sized dog of the spitz group once common on Dutch barges, from the Dutch *kees* terrier + *hond* dog: "Keeshonds or Dutch barge dogs will find many admirers on account of their showy wolf-coloured coats."

CURTILAGE
(b) A court or area of land attached to and including a dwelling-house, from the OF *courtillage*: "The capital house protects and privileges all its branches and appurtenants, if within the curtilage of homestall."

BUNYIP
(b) A fabulous monster of Australian Aboriginal legend, also an impostor, Wreguia dialect of Wemba *banib* "Rather," said the noble girl, "rather would I take the baleful bunyip to my bosom, than give my hand to a man I loathe."

UVAROVITE
(c) A green lime-chrome garnet, named eponymously after Count S.S. Uvarov, Russian minister of education: "Uvarovite occurs in transparent emerald-green dodecahedrons."

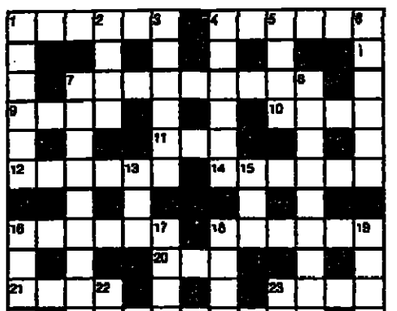
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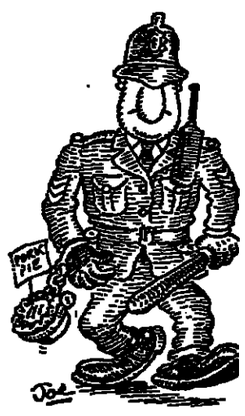
ACROSS
1 Sacred beetle (6)
4 Temporary ruler (6)
7 In the act (3-6)
9 Drew (4)
10 Oxbow frame (4)
11 Rule (3)
12 Brush off (6)
14 Fairly recent (6)
16 Arm (6)
18 Drug pedlar (6)
20 Slippery type (3)
21 Set down (4)
23 Interrogate (4)
24 Hampshire wood/heath (3,6

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

Hamming up the new food act

I WENT to the local cinema the other night along with an assortment of farmers, publicans and bed-and-breakfast ladies to witness a stunning performance. Whether it was black comedy or a horror epic we are still not certain, but not one of us was unmoved.

The star of the show was our young environmental health officer, who is something of a matinée idol, and his role was to explain the Food Safety Act 1990, which has just come into force. Why was I there? Because nobody who handles food in any way can escape the act's scrutiny. I want to sell produce at the farm gate, but as far as I can gather even if I only squeeze out teabags for the WRVS the new law will pounce.



The Food Safety Act is an indigestible feast of legislation, and at the cinema it became clear that explaining it was a task Cecil B. DeMille would have been stretched to cover.

The show started with high drama. The EHO smote the blackboard with a rod and declared: "I am now empowered to remove from your premises any food I consider suspect and place it before a Justice of the Peace at any hour with a view to having it declared unfit for human consumption."

Best of luck, mate! If he thinks he's going to get a cheery welcome from the magistrates round here when he pounds the door in the middle of the night bearing a malodorous pork pie he's got another think coming.

There was worse to follow. "Remember," his voice dropped menacingly, "from now on I shall consider water to be a food." We nodded, stunned. Warming to his theme, he continued: "Listeria is everywhere. There have been instances," he took on his severest tone now, "where children have been allowed to lick bowls after mothers have been making cakes." We reeled in horror.

Then he showed us a diagram of a thermometer with the temperatures above which hot food should be kept and below which chilled food must be maintained. I noted gloomily that the temperature of the human body fell halfway between. I fear that any one of us may be placed before a JP at any hour and condemned.

We learnt that, yes, even village halls must get their kitchens up to scratch; we discovered that there is an exam we all have to take, to prove we understand what the new law is all about. Quite frankly, I would not wish to be the one who tells the lady who has made the teas for our local WI for the past 20 years that she's got to sit an exam on how to do it.

Still, good luck to the act. The old one, after all, had more loopholes than a chunk of emmenthal; its passing is no loss. And thanks to the EHO: for all its drama, his show made a surprisingly good night out.

We are now busy thinking how our little farm can comply with the new law, to enable us to sell our pork, lamb, sausages and potatoes. When we are ready, I shall be more than happy for the EHO to come calling. I have nothing to hide. Except perhaps one thing. Last week I bought an old bacon slicer, and I love it dearly. It had spent 60 years in the village shop and then been put to rest in the retired grocer's garden shed. When it emerged on Saturday its chrome still gleamed, its painted cast-ironwork was still a vibrant red, and its circular knife was sharp.

Now I have a vision. It is of the most delicious hams from our own pigs, smoked and cured on the farm, and waiting to yield to my new slicer, in succulent, moist portions. But will the new law allow this? At present, the best smokehouses, I am told, are built out of converted privies. As for curing, chunks of pig spend many long weeks slopping around in unsavoury liquids at whatever temperature God sends. Add to that the antique bacon slicer and I fear my EHO may go into a faint.

Never mind. When I'm hauled before the beak in the middle of the night, the slicer is coming too.

Home from home: Lady Baring

Comfort amid the clutter

MARK ASPLAND



Bag lady: Lady Baring, who has never thrown a letter away in her life, brought "40 years of stuff" to her new Hampshire home with Sir John

Sally Baring is, she says, "basically, a bag lady. I can't move without at least three paper bags filled with my bumph. I even carry my will with me back and forth; I've been meaning to write it for ages, but never quite get round to it."

The ritual, she says, when she and Sir John leave their west London flat on Friday evenings, goes: Have we got our bags? (that's John, in tolerant tones), and will we be bringing them back on Sunday?

Sir John, the former chairman of the Baring family banking company, and Lady Baring, his second wife, drive the one and a half hours from Notting Hill to their country house in Hampshire almost every weekend.

Lady Baring moved into the house three years ago when she and Sir John married. "I had 40 years' worth of stuff in store which all came here. I am a terrible hoarder — I've never thrown a letter away in my life — and I always think I might do a lot of sorting out."

Sir John has been living in the house since it was built in 1976. It stands in the former kitchen garden of the nearby neo-classical house which had belonged to the Baring family before being sold in the Thirties. The new house was built on to an existing Georgian cottage. Technically, it is a bungalow but, at 120ft, it is rather a long one. "As you drive up to it," Lady Baring says, "it looks like just a flint wall with a door set into it, because it has a flat roof and no windows on that side. But then you open the door and walk inside and there's an amazing rush of light, because the other side is all glass, looking south over the lawn and the lake."

The garden, designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, is "amazing", Lady Baring says, "a landscape of lakes and trees. I'm very much a fledegling gardener, but you can't live with a garden like that and not get very involved. John's a wonderful gardener. We have great long-term plans to replant where hundreds of trees fell in the hurricane."

Sir John is also a keen fisherman. He's 6ft 6½in tall and his two sons are not much shorter, so the waders hanging from the cloakroom ceiling almost touch the floor. "You could fit two or three people into their boots," Lady Baring says.

The décor of the house is a clear reflection of her relaxed nature. The place is comfortable and not remotely imposing or grand. "I didn't want to change anything radically," she says, "but inevitably there are things that I have altered, partly to stop me feeling like a guest. However lovely someone else's taste is, if you put your own touch here and there, it makes a home feel more personal."

For example, she wanted to keep the cushions and curtains already there, but changed them just a little "with something like a decorative border. That was where I found a void in the market. You could only get nice ones from France, and they were very expensive. Nobody in England specialises in borders."

About two years ago she decided to set up business. Called Borderline, it now sells seven designs of fabric borders and numerous different silk ribbons to go on cushions, curtains, valances, tablecloths and so on. "I designed three of the borders myself," she says. "I spread them out here on the huge dining room table. I was inspired by all the flowers in the garden. The patterns are of very lush flowers, such as peonies, roses and foxgloves."

Every room has a lot of clutter, which also adds to the colourful atmosphere. Antique bits and pieces, which she has discovered over the years, have been thrown around, or put on, the various tables and chairs. Old lengths of material have been made into cushions, such as the ones in the drawing room covering the old sofa which once belonged to Douglas Fairbanks.

In the master bedroom is a gigantic Georgian bookcase. "It's wonderful, I've been able to stuff all my little things into one place." Behind the glass front is an abundance of small boxes, bits of lace, tiny lead animals. A white china hand holding a cornucopia was found by Lady Baring in an antique shop in Portland Road, Notting Hill. "It's so beautiful I've started collecting all sorts of hands," she says.

This strong collecting instinct also manifests itself in the form of a decade's worth of photographs — more than 2,000 cut out of magazines — and drawings her three children did when they were little.

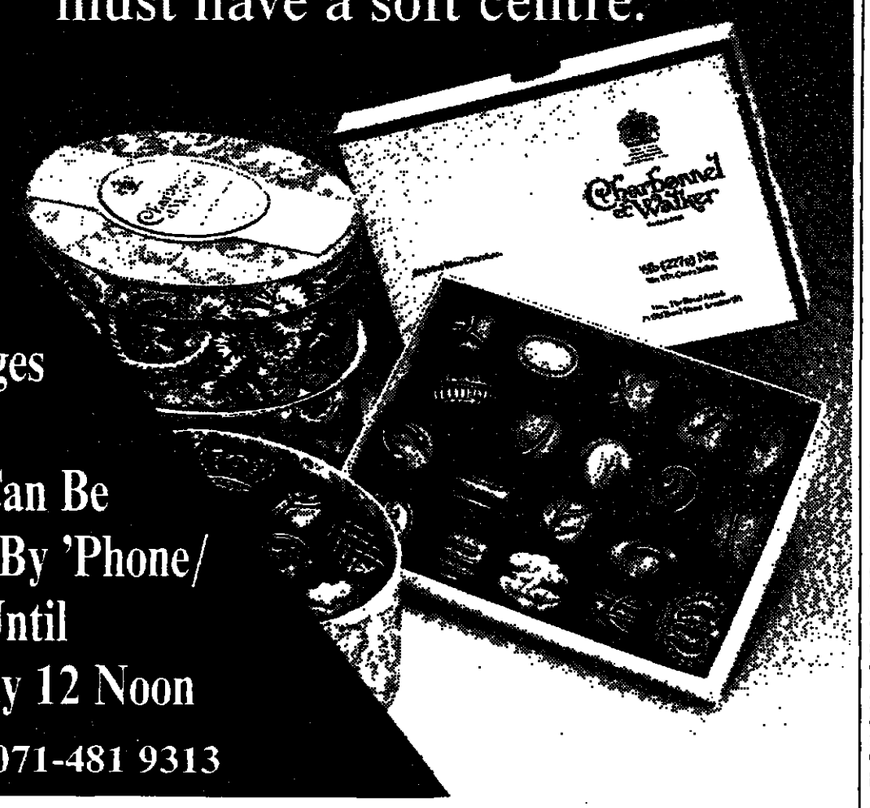
"I spend hours here putting them into huge scrapbooks. I'm only four years out of date now."

Since the housekeeper and the caretaker moved into the cottage a few weeks ago, Lady Baring has had more time to herself. She and Sir John have people to stay most weekends. They have many friends as well as seven adult children between them, who also have many friends. Lady Baring once did all the cooking herself but the new housekeeper has taken over. "I'm very spoilt, but it's completely changed my life at weekends," she says. "It's wonderful, I did not enjoy cooking but now that I don't have to do it I really appreciate the contrast. It means I have time to talk to my friends and potter about the garden and to really enjoy being here.

"When John retired as chairman of the bank he meant to take Mondays off so that we could be here for longer. But he's still so busy that it did not quite work out like that. If my business takes off I could perhaps hand it over to someone else in, say, five years, and then we could move here permanently. I'm looking forward to that. However much time you spend in the city, if you grew up in the country you always feel it has a certain pull."

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THE TIMES

Courting the kingfishers

Feather report



Robin Jacques

Exotic, noisy, spectacular: kingfishers indicate clean rivers

PEOPLE tend to think of kingfishers as fabulous monsters. They represent the ultimate rare bird; the most wonderful bird you could hope to see. They are gloriously, outrageously and quite un-Britishly exotic in their iridescent blue and vivid chestnut. The joy of seeing one can last a lifetime.

I saw one last weekend, and heard another. A week or so back, I saw one while cycling down a main road. There was another at Hayle estuary in Cornwall: that makes four in about four weeks. The truth is that kingfishers are fairly common birds; not exactly sparrows, but not red-flanked bluetails, either.

They are spectacular; glorious when seen as a fleeting black shadow whizzing upriver like a little dart, always close to the surface. They are smaller than many people think, and noisier, too, especially in spring, with a shrill, irritated little scream.

They are good birds to see, for one's own pleasure and because they indicate that the water they live by is clean. The more kingfishers there are, the better it is for us in every way.

I am glad to report that kingfishers are holding their own. We owe this information to decades of bird counting. Good old counters, these people willingly freeze to death counting birds in the direst weather. Heroes.

We will owe them more and more in future. The government's white paper on the environment, published last September, stressed research and monitoring as a central approach to environmental problems. This can be interpreted as a narrow-eyed "prove it" attitude: you want something saved, fine, but first show it is in danger. The counters supply the evidence conservationists will need.

Chris Mason has recently presented the British Trust for Ornithology with figures for kingfishers, based on research into the records of 46 years of counting in Leicestershire. What we get is a peak at the beginning of the Fifties, followed by a catastrophic dive. The reasons are easy to guess at: flat-out industrial expansion led to polluted rivers. Agricultural expansion and reckless use of pesticides affected all creatures at the sharp end of the food chain: the poisons build up in fish, and build up disastrously in those that eat poisoned fish.

By the mid-Sixties, the population recovered as restrictions on pesticides came in. We had a new kingfisher peak by the start of the Seventies, but the population has declined since; we are about halfway back to the lower peak.

Short-term, a kingfisher decline is likely to indicate a hard winter: it is not easy to fish in frozen water. A long-term decline is more likely to show there is something amiss with our streams and rivers. And there is. Fertilisers from arable land wash into rivers and stimulate the growth of algae, and it is possible that this makes for fewer fish.

The kingfishers are still doing all right, however. Mr Mason has collated all these figures and has worked out "95 per cent confidence limits" for the Leicestershire kingfishers. When a bird population dips below that limit, it is time to get worried. Kingfishers are there to enjoy. Visit a bird reserve, walk along a likely stream, or try cycling along a main road. Once I cycled parallel to a stream, keeping pace with a flying kingfisher. I couldn't take my eyes off it. How I survived the speeding juggernauts I will never know, but it would have been quite a way to go.

SIMON BARNES

● *Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Station Road, Tring, Herts HP23 5NR.*

● **What's about:** *Birders — high-flying lapwing, large thrush flocks, skylarks. Twitchers — American bittern, ring-billed gull. Birdline (0898 700222).*

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

● **Dog agility show:** Collies predominate, but there will be many other breeds among the 240 dogs entered. *West Wilts Equestrian Centre, Melksham Road, Holt, Wilts. Today 9am-5pm, free.*

● **G'astronomic:** Experts from the Loughton Astronomical Society give a slide show to explain how to distinguish the Bear from the Anvil. Barbecue and viewing of the stars. *Lee Valley Park Countryside Centre, Waltham Abbey, Essex. Today 7.30pm, £2.50, bookable on 0992 713838.*

● **Surrey county antiques fair:** Forty-five exhibitors observing pre-1920 datelines. *Gordon's School, near Lightwater, Surrey. Today, tomorrow 11am-5pm, £2.50.*

● **East Cumbrian walk:** To Helbeck, scene of history and natural history. *Meet Brough Methodist Church, East Cumbria. Reference NY796146, tomorrow 10.30am, £1, child 50p. Information on 0228 61601.*

● **Archaeology walk:** To Dalton-le-Dale and the excavations at Dalden Tower. *Meet Dalton-le-Dale church, off the B1285 south of Seaham, Co Durham, tomorrow 2pm, 80p, child 40p.*

NEXT WEEK

● **Conservation of the South Downs:** Illustrated talk with Phil Belden, a countryside ranger. *Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Arundle, West Sussex (0903 883355), Mon 7.30pm, £1.*

● **RHS garden demonstrations and workshops:** Wednesday: "Preparing for the new season in the nursery", 11am, Rosemoor Garden, Great Torrington, Devon (0805 24067); "Growing plants under glass", 2pm, Wisley, Woking, Surrey (0483 224234). Thursday: "Fruit tree pruning", 2pm, Pershore, Worcs (0386 554609); "Bulbs for summer gardens", 2pm, Harlow Carr Gardens, near Harrogate, North Yorks (0423 565418).

JUDY FROSHAUG

● **Next week: where to take the children during half-term.**

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TRAVEL can broaden the mind, particularly on your way to or from work by train. You can learn Japanese, German or Swahili, alternative medicine, portrait painting, accountancy, archaeology, even conjuring.

The key is the Commuter Study Club, started by Dr Pamela Le Pelley, a social anthropologist, with the help of Lord Young of Dartington, who was instrumental in setting up the Open University and whose Mutual Aid Centre funds Dr Le Pelley's work.

They made their maiden voyage on the 7.17 from Cambridge to Liverpool Street station, London, in 1977, and have increased their routes and subjects over the years, expanding from mainly Network SouthEast to InterCity trains.

The 18.10 from Euston to Wolverhampton, for example, offers mathematics, computing and information technology, French conversation, chess and Spanish.

Pupils can enrol in existing classes or ask Dr Le Pelley to form one for them. All they need do is tell her that they are interested in studying, say, sculpture or scripture on the 7.29 from Scunthorpe and she will try to match them up with an instructor and other interested commuters. Or, they can volunteer to teach a subject.

SOME classes are simply discussion groups, on books or world affairs, taught, like most of the classes, by commuters who feel they have something to offer.

Most lessons are free, but for the professional classes on some trains, taught by experts, a fee of £28 for a ten-week term of weekly lessons is paid direct to the tutor, who travels free on a BR rail pass.

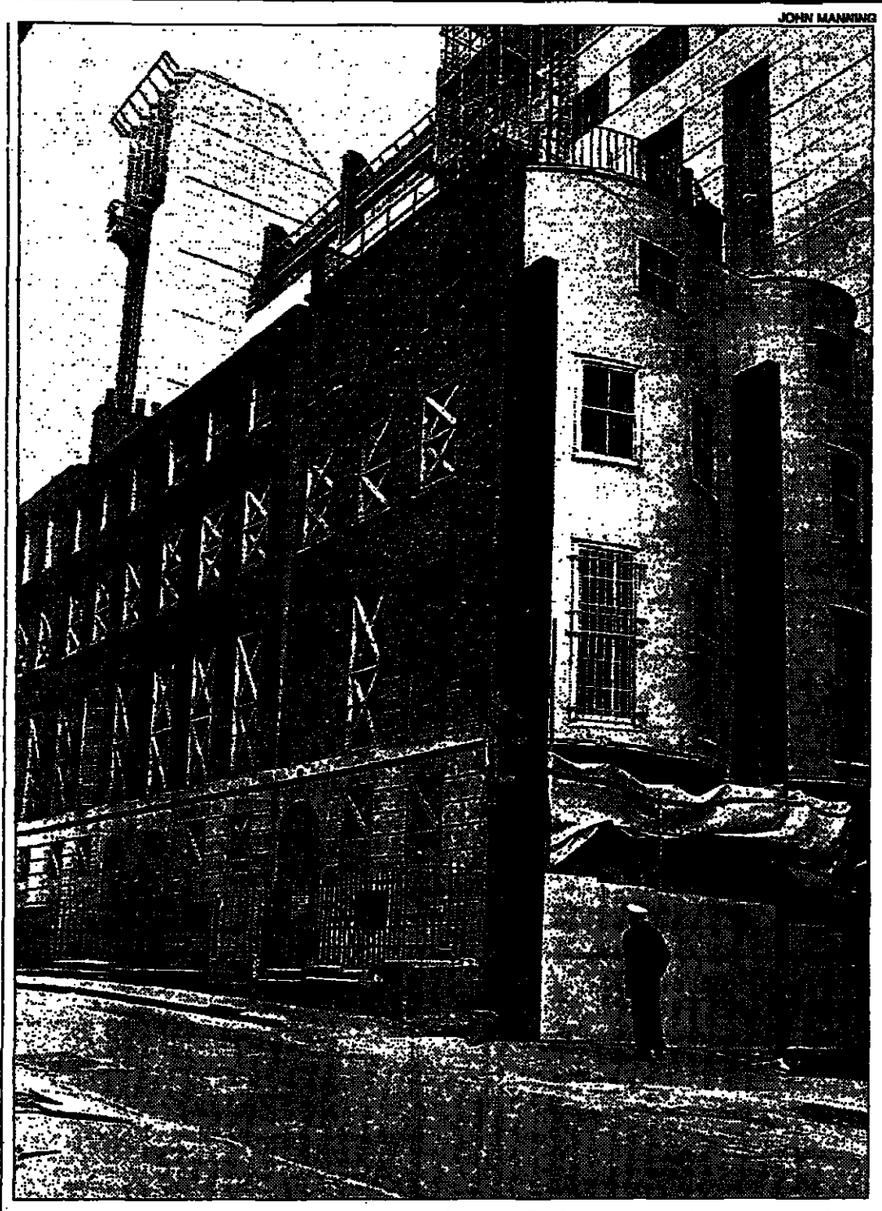
Ray Leaning's art class on the 7.47 from Brighton to Victoria has been so successful that there was an exhibition of the group's work in Brighton. "Although none of our classes is a degree class, the art class links in with the Open College of the Arts, and we hope to include creative writing and photography," Dr Le Pelley says.

Most commuters are keen to learn simply for learning's sake, she says. Occasionally commuters have had to strap-hang while studying, but most of the time seats are reserved — in first class compartments, where possible, without extra charge.

VICTORIA McKEE

● *Commuter Study Club, 18 Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PF (081-980 0701).*

JOHN MANNING



Right approach? The Craven Street terrace does not feature on English Heritage's list of buildings at risk

With Georgian on their minds

Many Georgian terraces are in need restoration, but what type of restoration and to what purpose? Callum Murray reports

Walk the Georgian streets of Spitalfields, east of the City of London, skirting the derelicts huddled around packing-case fires by the market. Before long you will come upon one of the houses listed in English Heritage's *Buildings at Risk in Greater London*, published last week.

In Princelet Street alone ten terraced houses feature, all of them Grade 2 listed. There are 945 buildings on English Heritage's register, and about 70 per cent are Georgian terraced houses like these. How is it that, at a time when "flat-fronted" houses are held in higher esteem than ever, so many are under threat?

The architectural historian Dan Cruickshank is a founder member of the Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust, set up in 1977. His reticently restored house in Elder Street provides an answer to the threat facing such buildings. Elder Street is an early Georgian island, overlooked by the pink marble monoliths of the Broadgate centre, and surrounded by nondescript Victorian commercial development. Georgian terraces, the suburbs of their day, are now often part of the inner city — and who wants to live in the inner city?

Stephen Muthesius noted, in *The English Terraced House*, that while the terrace house was a uniquely English concept, dating from the 17th century, the "domestic revival", with its idea of "the occasional retreat into remoteness, nature, smallness, individuality", can itself be traced back at least to the "cottage ornee" of about 1800. "As early as 1840," he wrote, "the terrace had ceased to be fashionable."

Now that it is once more fashionable to live in the right kind of terrace, is it too late? In Spitalfields, many Georgian houses appear beyond hope, with walls blackened, cracked and bowed, and windows and doors leaning sideways. Yet some of those on the register are already in the care of the trust and some, such as 42 Brushfield Street, built in 1780, have had considerable sums of money spent on them, including English Heritage grants.

The preface to *Buildings at Risk* acknowledges that: "Some of the buildings listed are the subject of current proposals for refurbishment and will be removed from the register when repair works are complete." But the owner of one of the houses in Princelet Street has spent 12 years restoring the building bit by bit with the encouragement of the trust, as money has become available. It must be galling for her to find that her house is described on the register as "poor, vacant".

The problem of restoring Georgian terraces is not simply that many inner city areas do not have a Spitalfields Trust; nor, in Spitalfields, that the trust is only a charity and has no money. According to Mr Cruickshank, these houses, which were nearly always built speculatively, are in a category of their own. Thin-walled, lime-mortared and often with virtually no foundations, they are "soft buildings," he says.

In the time it took to gain planning consent, some houses were occupied by squatters and one was set on fire, destroying much of the wooden wall panelling

"They should have fallen long ago, but they tend to want to stand up."

He adds that their restoration is an extremely delicate business, it is difficult to find architects, engineers and craftsmen who understand the buildings well enough to do the job properly.

There are, however, other ways of restoring Georgian terraces. Next to Charing Cross station stands a domestic Georgian terrace dating from 1730 to about 1790. For perhaps 100 years Craven Street was owned by British Rail and, before it, by the Southern Railway. The houses were partly used as low-cost office accommodation. In 1977, British Rail sold the terrace, but by then, fortunately, it had acquired its Grade 2 listing and could not be demolished easily.

The developer, Tarmac, believed that the buildings would be commercially viable only as high-rent office space, converted to a very high specification. In the time it took to gain the planning consents, some houses were occupied by squatters and one was set on fire, destroying much of the original wooden wall panelling. When the current architect, Jestico and Whiles, took over in 1989, the buildings were in bad shape. But the terrace is now clearly under restoration, and does not appear on English Heritage's register.

Yet many experts, including Mr Cruickshank, would say that Georgian terraces are more "at risk" from conversion to office accommodation of this type, than they are from total neglect. "We're asking them to do things they were never built to do," admits the architect Tom Jestico.

In contrast to the Spitalfields process, the restoration is proceeding quickly. Floors have been jacked up and relevelled, main beams reinforced to withstand office floor loadings, wall panelling stripped out to be replaced later. All this is very different from the Spitalfields Trust's minimum intervention policy of painstaking conservation of all existing fabric, whatever its condition. "It's open-heart surgery," Mr Jestico says of the Craven Street project. "It's very radical, I acknowledge that. But what we're doing is setting the building up for another 200 years. If you do a low-spec. building, you have not arrested the decline. English Heritage's view involves constant renovation — you can't sell that on the open market."

In spite of placing so many of the trust's buildings on the "at risk" register, and of omitting Craven Street, English Heritage approves of conservation of the Spitalfields kind rather than the Craven Street kind. Jestico and Whiles has fought many battles with English Heritage. "English Heritage have the moral high ground," Mr Jestico says. "They are the good guys. But often it's not that clear-cut."

The irony is that it seems impossible at present to sell a high-spec office building. With the upper terrace nearing completion, tenants are still being sought — and the developers are thinking of cutting their losses. For the lower terrace, Jestico and Whiles has, after all, been asked to prepare an alternative, low-spec. scheme, costing about half that of the upper terrace conversion. "That would delight English Heritage," Mr Jestico says. "They have this thing that one day someone's going to come along and do the job 'properly'."

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

● **Milton Keynes brass band festival:** Contest with 53 bands. *Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes, Bucks, tomorrow 9am-7pm, £2.50, child/student £1.50.*

● **Jorvik Viking combat and Feast of the Jarl:** This afternoon, warriors from Regia anglorum recreate hostilities at the Eye of York. Viking banquet tonight in the Merchant Adventurers Hall. *York. Today, combat 2pm, free. Feast 7.45pm, £20.50.*

● **Childhood festival concert:** Third in the series of concerts devised by the LSO's principal conductor, Michael Tilson Thomas. *Barbican Hall, London EC2. Tomorrow 7.30pm, £5-£25 (box office, 071-638 8891).*

● **Still and Silent Objects:** Last chance to see the exhibition of sculptures inspired by seven artists who spent a year studying the museum's collections. *Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 9123). Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 11am-6pm, £3, child over five £1.50, under five free, family tickets £8.*

NEXT WEEK

● **National Trust lecture:** Paul Edwards, the landscape architect and writer, talks about restoring and designing garden features. *Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1. Mon 6pm, £4.50 (Festival Hall box office, 071-928 8800).*

● **RSPB films:** "Year of the Stork", "Home from the Sea", "A Story of Seabirds", "Barcud, the Red Kite Success Story". *Duke's Playhouse, Moor Lane, Lancaster. Tomorrow and Mon. 7.30pm. Also at St George's Hall, Exeter, Tues 5pm and 7.45pm. Small admission charge.*

● **Pioneers: Aviation 1783-1914:** Art exhibition depicting early attempts to fly. Also an exhibition about the RAF in the Gulf today. *RAF Museum, Hendon, London, NW9 (081-205 2266), Tues until August 4, daily 10am-6pm, £3.60, child £1.80.*

● **King's Lynn fiction festival:** Three-day festival of talks, seminars and discussions with writers including Malcolm Bradbury, David Lodge, Penelope Fitzgerald, Hilary Mantel. *Town Hall, King's Lynn, Norfolk; Fri-Sun. Information, tickets from Anthony Ellis, Hillhouse, 19 Tuesday Market Place, Kings Lynn (0553 691661).*

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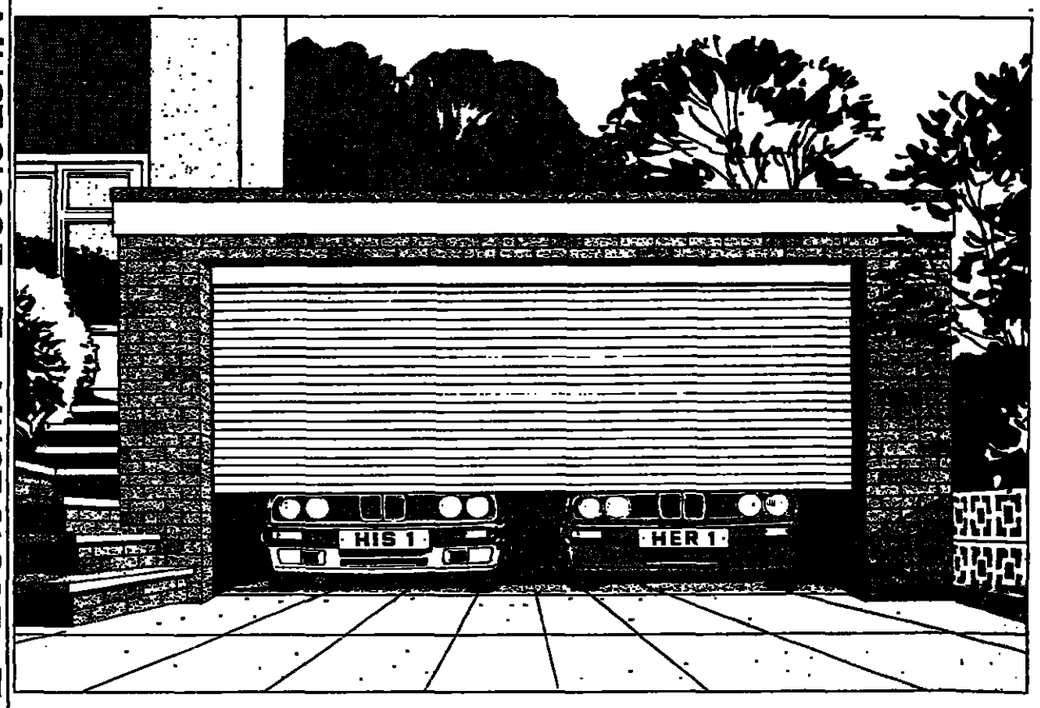
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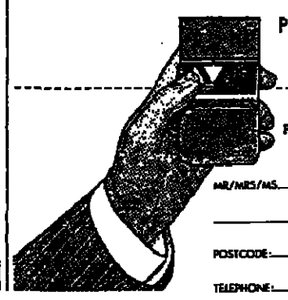
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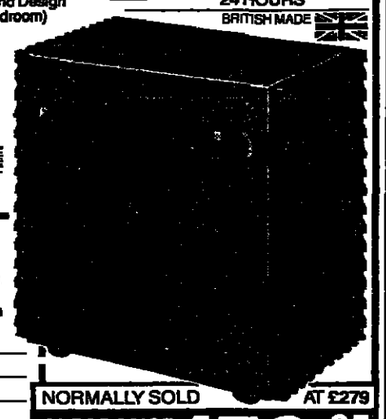
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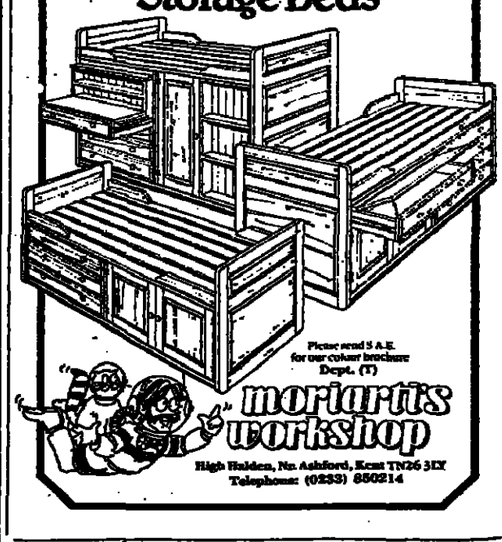
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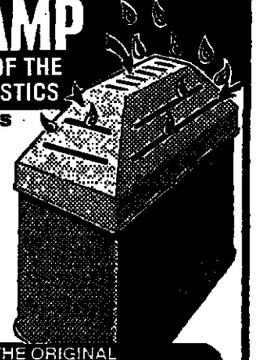
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Poison pens among the billets-doux

From Venus and Cupid to purveyors of bad meat, Sarah Jane Checkland charts the chequered history of the Valentine card











Romance and ridicule: Pordenone's *Cupid Disarmed by Venus*, left, at Wildenstein & Co; and examples of nasty Valentines

Love almost died two centuries ago when hate intervened. Since then, having revived during the roaring Twenties, it has suffered a gradual decline and is now threatened with extinction by the combined forces of treacle and sexual innuendo. Such is the history of the Valentine token, as demonstrated by the evidence available on the London market.

Do not expect to find images of St Valentine himself, blessing joyful couples in bowers. The first lesson about St Valentine's Day is that it has nothing to do with that priest-come-physician martyred in the 3rd century. Instead, it probably has its origins in the heathen belief that birds start mating on February 14. And from that date, Wildenstein & Co., the London West End gallery, will be exhibiting the French 18th century perception of love with its collection of paintings and drawings entitled "Venus and Cupid". Here, at prices ranging from £20,000 to £100,000, are saccharine images originally commissioned by foppish patrons in dedicated search of romance.

Venus, the goddess of love and sexual desire, has become an excuse for portraying nudity. Pierre Andrieu depicts her surveying herself approvingly in a mirror. Meanwhile Fragonard paints the goddess's son Cupid (a winged youth in Renaissance times, but now a cuddly, chubby child), shown here in a scene resembling the image on a Lindt chocolate box, offering his heart to his mother. Huet shows him as a jester cavorting among lovebirds.

Even on Olympus, however, love had its hitches. In the Fragonard, a preparatory sketch for a full-scale painting, Cupid carries a fool's sceptre to remind us that love and folly are inseparable. Venus, who has been known in other paintings to strike Cupid with a bunch of roses, is depicted by the 16th century Venetian artist Pordenone, officiously confiscating his bow.

Goya depicts the agonies of love in a rare mythological scene showing Venus prostrate with grief over the body of her lover Adonis, who has been killed by a boar. Such agonies are again the fault of Cupid, on whose arrow she has suffered a graze.

Back on earth, meanwhile, as the 18th century drew to a close, miserable mortals were giving rein to their baser sides and the "Vile Valentine" was born. While most missives were lacy, floral, and loving in their intent, the generation after Hogarth started revelling in cards conveying personal insults to toothless hags or drunken crones.

The origins of these unsavoury items are hard to uncover, and it is not clear whether they resulted from the straight malice of the poison pen letter, or were desperate attempts to shake off unwanted suitors. At the same time, the French, who had no tradition of Valentine cards, were taking their St Valentine's Day customs to similar extremes, tricking unsuitable couples (old men, younger old maids) into blind dates in order to ridicule them.

We do know these were changing times for society both in Britain and France. In 1774 the Comte d'Angiviller, "Directeur des Batiments du Roi", banned the Salon from including works which displayed looseness or indecent nudity. Later, St Valentine's Day celebrations were also banned and today there is no such thing as St Valentine's Day in France.

Back at home, prejudice against minority groups developed apace in the 1850s. According to the weathered cards which survive, victims of abuse included the grocer who cheats, the plumber who is ugly and the baker who is "German". But public enemy number one was the purveyor of bad meat. "You seller of stale mutton and putrid stinking beef, there is not in the business a meaner rogue or thief," reads one card, in which a corpulent butcher has been dappled to resemble a rotten side of the meat.

Artistic types also became butts of cruelty, such as the ballerina who is depicted as a half-witted whore, too fat to leap. The sexuality of a boy with artistic leanings is questioned with the verse:

Simple Simon, soft and fair,
Mild as any Fairy —
Where's his sweetheart? I declare,
Poor boy he has not any.

Those were the days of the Penny Post, when the recipient was obliged to pay when they received a letter. Not surprisingly, the Post Office was inundated with complaints by people demanding refunds after receiving their Valentine nasties. Eventually, as the Victorian era drew to an end, so declined the age of sweet and sour Valentine cards. "Some people believe they went out of fashion because they got so nasty," says Beatrice Boyle, of Christie's South Kensington. "It was not until the 1920s that they picked up again."

> *'You seller of stale mutton and putrid stinking beef, there is not in the business a meaner rogue or thief,' reads one card*

But today the Valentine token has reached a new low, as evidenced by the stocks in our newsagents. Here, instead of Cupids or even old maids, we find racks full of cute kittens, bears and cats. They either gush affection or ooze innuendo ("I don't just love you a bit" says one cuddling bunny to another, "I love *all* your bits").

No wonder old fashioned lovers have turned back to sentimental Victorian cards, which are, incidentally, ideal for recycling because of the obliging reticence on the part of the senders to add their messages to those printed.

Five years ago, says Miss Boyle, there was no market in antique Valentines. Now, standard examples can cost £30 to £35 each, while others can reach £150. The buyers, she says are "romantics, both men and women", some of whom buy for lovers, some for their collections. "People start collecting from the decorative point of view, but Valentines are also interesting historically because they use so many printing processes."

At her auction yesterday a rare engraved letter Valentine, postmarked February 14, 1817, its hand-coloured rose lifting to reveal a couple embracing in a landscape, sold for £120, while a collection of 12 Victorian embossed and pierced paperlace Valentines fetched £260.

Although far rarer than their nicer counterparts (recipients were rarely inclined to paste them into their scrapbooks), Valentine nasties sell for about a third of the price of romantic ones. At Miss Boyle's auction a pencil and water colour caricature of a Georgian gentleman, watermarked 1812 and addressed to one Thomas Williams, with a printed verse which concludes, "That if all men were like thee – then, I'd sooner die than marry", fetched £65. A group of nine from the 1850s, and including one referring to "your thick pumpkin skull", sold for £55. David Drummond, the London ephemera dealer, is offering an image of the corpulent butcher, dated around 1910, for £18.

● *Wildenstein & Co. Ltd, 147 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 0602); Valentine card specialist: David Drummond, 11 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (071-836 1142).*

● The Valentine and its Origins, *by Frank Staff, is a collector's item in itself, having been published in 1969 by Lutterworth Press.*

Review

● **Big Mack:** Sotheby's Scotland proves that quality still sells in the difficult art market. A rare water colour of anemones by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Glasgow artist, architect and designer, was bought for a record £198,000 by the Fine Art Society. The estimate was £150,000-£200,000. The previous record for a Mackintosh was £132,000.

Round up: Bonhams is offering the "Knights' Round Table" on April 18. Not Arthur's own, you understand, but one reputedly purchased at the Great Exhibition. Believed to have the largest circular table top ever made from one piece of wood, at 8ft in diameter, it is estimated at up to £20,000.

Preview

● **Monday:** Christie's sale of British ceramics includes a blue-ground Worcester cup and saucer, circa 1768 (up to £6,000), and a Spode blue-ground Strawberry Pusher, circa 1820 (up to £600).

Tuesday: Phillips offers a pair of weirdly imposing Regency mahogany hall benches with eagles for backs and hairy paws for legs (up to £10,000) and a Gothic oak stool designed by Pugin for Windsor Castle (up to £8,000).

Tuesday to Thursday: Riddetts of Bournemouth offers glass, ceramics, clocks, furniture, paintings and objets d'art and artefacts; 10am and 2pm daily.

Wednesday: Bearne's of Torquay offers an Iberian, cased, polychrome wood and plaster Calvary group (up to £2,000) and a charming Regency rosewood games table (up to £5,000). Bonhams offers work by 70 art school graduates at 6pm.



Thursday and Friday: Mixed sale at Neales of Nottingham features the Tanenbaum collection of silver flatware, including 16th century apostle, Maidenhead and Seal top spoons; 10.30am daily.

● *Christie's King Street, St James's SW1 (071-839 9060). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 6602). Riddetts, 26 Richmond Hill, Bournemouth (0202 555686). Bearne's, Avenue Road, Torquay (0803 296277). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (071-584 9161). Neales, 192 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (0602 624141).*

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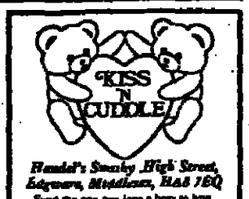
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SOUTH BANK

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 9 Feb 7.30 — SAINT LOUIS SYMPHONY; SLATKIN-CONDUCTING. This concert has been cancelled. Van Walsum Management

Sun 10 Feb 7.30 — VERDI AND PUCCINI GALA OPERA NIGHT National Symphony Orchestra, David Coleman (cond) Arias, duets & choruses from Madam Butterfly, Nabucco, Aida, La Bohème, Pagliacci, La Traviata & Trovatore, Tosca. £16.50 (ONLY) Victor Hochhauser

Mon 11 Feb 7.30 — In the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra HONG KONG EVENING A concert by outstanding Chinese soloists London Mozart Players, Wang Jin (cond) Wks by Mozart, Wrekitt, Milhaud, Dvorak. £5 Anglo-Hong Kong Trust/London Chinese Cultural Centre

Tue 12 Feb 7.30 — THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Bryden Thomson (cond) Linda Finnie (mez-sop) Leon McCawley (pno) Walton Hindemith Variations, Elgar Sea Pictures Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No 3. £25 £18 £14 £10 £7 £4 London Philharmonic Enterprises Ltd

Wed 13 Feb 7.30 — RADIO DREV A Centenary Celebration. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Yuri Temirkanov (cond) Dmitri Alexeev (pno) Prog inc Prokofiev Piano Concerto no 3 Stravinsky Suite, The Firebird, Divertimento The Fairy's Kiss £25 £20 £17 £13 £10 £7 £5 RPO

Thu 14 Feb 7.30 — THE PHILHARMONIA Libor Pesek (conductor) Dmitry Sitkovetsky (violin) Martinu Double Concerto, Bartók Violin Concerto no 1 Dvorak Symphony No 6. £20 £16 £14 £10 £6 £3 Philharmonia Ltd

Fri 15 Feb 7.30 — BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich (conductor) David Butt (flute) Mozart Symphony No 39 Flute Concerto in G K.313 Symphony No 40 Please note change of programme and conductor. £16, £12, £8, £3.50 BBC

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sun 10 Feb 3.00 — WELBME GRAND Int'l Piano Series. Bach-Busoni Chaconne (trans. from Partita in D min) Beethoven Sonata in E Op 109 Brahms Sonata No 2 in F sharp minor. £10 £8 £6.50 £5 Terry Harrison Artists Management/SBC

Sun 10 Feb 7.45 — ELLIOTT CARTER London Sinfonietta, Oliver Knussen (cond) Gareth Hulse (ob) Paul Crossley, Ian Brown (pnos) John Constable (harpsi) Prog inc Knussen Coursing, Stravinsky Movements, Carter Oboe Concerto, Double Concerto. £14 £10.50 £7 £5 £2.75 South Bank Centre

Mon 11 Feb 7.45 — ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL GALA CONCERT Sheila Hancock (narrator) Piano Duo Instrumental Ensemble Debussy Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune Stravinsky The Rite of Spring Saint-Saëns Carnival of the Animals £20 £15 (ONLY) St George's Hospital

Tue 12 Feb 7.45 — LONDON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA The Music of Britain. Christopher Warren-Green (dir/vln) Elgar Intro & Allegro, Vaughan Williams Tallis Fantasia, The Lark Ascending, Britten Prel & Fugue, Frank Bridge Vars £12.50, £10.50, £7.50 LCO/Speakout

PURCELL ROOM

Mon 11 Feb 8.00 — ABEGG TRIO, GOTTINGEN Dvorak Piano Trio in B flat, Op 21 Wolfgang Rihm Fremde Szene II, Chesshirebook, Brahms Piano Trio in B Op 8. £7.50 £5.50 £4 Basil Douglas Artists' Management

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THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY at 7.30 pm

LIBOR PEŠEK Conductor
DMITRY SITKOVETSKY Violin

MARTINŮ Double Concerto
BARTOK Violin Concerto No. 1
DVORAK Symphony No. 6

SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY at 7.30 pm

LIBOR PEŠEK Conductor
ARLEEN AUGER Soprano

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 1 "The Classical"
RAVEL Alborado del gracioso
Sheherazade
Vocalise en forme de habanera
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STEPHEN BISHOP-KOVACEVICH
DAVID BUTT

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MOZART Flute Concerto in G
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
YURI TEMIRKANOV
conducts

WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 7.30 pm

Prokofiev .. The Love of Three Oranges (Suite)
Prokofiev ..... Piano Concerto No. 3
Stravinsky ..... The Firebird Suite (1945)
Stravinsky ..... The Fairy's Kiss

Soloist DMITRI ALEXEEV

THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 7.30 pm

Borodin ..... Polovtsian Dances
Prokofiev ..... Peter and the Wolf
Mussorgsky ..... Pictures at an Exhibition

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MICHAEL ROLL

MOZART ..... Sonata in A, K331
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SCHUMANN ..... Fantasie in C, Op. 17

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066/1911 Standby info 836 6903 S CC 66 unsold seats avail on the day THE ROYAL OPERA Today 4.30 Gotterdammerung THE ROYAL BALLET Mon 7.30 Dances Concertantes/Winter Dreams/Raymonda Act III

THEATRES

ADELPHI 071 836 7611 CC 071 379 6444 First Call 24hr cc 071 497 9977 (no big fee) Grps 071 930 6123 NOW BOOKING TO SEPT ME AND MY GIRL THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00 "THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN" Sunday Express

ALBERY 8O & cc (no fee) 867 1115 cc (no fee)867 1111/379 4444 (no fee) 793 1000/497 9977 BEST MUSICAL Sheff Award 1985 WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS with STEPHANIE LAWRENCE "Astonishing...A triumph in British theatre" 5 Exp ...Brings the audience to its feet, and rightly so supernova" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

ALDWYCH B O/CC 071 836 6404 Also CC (no big fee) 071 836 2428 (big fee) 071 793 1000 / 379 4444 LTD SEASON FROM 3 APRIL ENGLISH SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Comedy, Lyrical & THE WINTER'S TALE "Distinctive, poignant and barnstorming" Ind.

ALDWYCH 071 836 6404 cc 071 793 1000 (No Fee) & 24hr cc 836 2428/379 4444 (Big Fee) JULIAN CLARY IS CAMPING AT THE ALDWYCH Eve 8 Sats 5.30,8.30 Till Feb 23

APOLLO VICTORIA BS 071 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Grps 828 6188 cc 24hr 379 4444/240 7200 071 793 1000 Grps 930 6123. Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0 SEVENTH HIT YEARS STARLIGHT EXPRESS Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE Directed by TREVOR NUNN SOME SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK OAP's £5 on Tues Mats NOW BOOKING TO 28 SEPT

CAMBRIDGE 071 379 6290 CC 071 379 6444 (24hr no Big Fee) 071 497 9977(24hr)/071 793 1000 (B Fees) Grps 071 240 7941 "Go in and finish..." The Times BEST MUSICAL Olivier Awards 1990 RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET "The broadest, ballsiest musical" C Limits "Breathless and brilliant" D Mir Mon Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5 & 8.30 All seats £8.50 Fri 5pm only "Definitely addictive" D Tel "Awesome" What's On

COMEDY B O 071 867 1045/1111cc Also CC (no big fee) 071 379 4444/497 9977 793 1000 "STUNNING... A POWERFUL EVENING" Mail THE PETER HALL COMPANY WARREN MITCHELL CHERIE LUNGHI The HOMECOMING by HAROLD PINTER "DISTINGUISHED & MILLIMOUNT indeed Eves 8.00, MATS WED 3.00, SAT 5.00

DOMINION 071 580 9845 cc 071 580 9562 RED PRICE PREV TUES FEB 26 OPENS WED FEB 27 AT 7 00PM SUBS EVES 7.30 MATS THUR & SAT 2.30 Don't Miss The Real Musical 42ND STREET Returns to the West End For 64 Perfs Book Now

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DUKE OF YORK'S BO & cc 836 8122 cc 836 9837 cc 836 3464/379 6444/793 1000 COMEDY OF THE YEAR Olivier Awards 1988 ELIZABETH ESTENSON in WILLY RUSSELL'S "SEXY" SHIRLEY VALENTINE Eves 8 Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 "The audience of tears approval. Shirley's spell is unbreakable" Mail "Feminist play for years" D Mir

FORTUNE Box Office & cc 071 836 2238 24hr cc (no big fee) 071 497 9977 (24hr) 071 793 1000 Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER" Guardian "MASTERLY" Exp CHILLING" Ind "Take Tranquillisers" T Out "HUGGRAY FOR HORRORS" D Mail NOW BOOKING TO MAY '91

GARRICK BO & CC 071 379 6107 cc 379 6444 (no big fee) 240 7200/793 1000 (big fee) Grps 930 6123 THE REHEARSAL by ALAN AYCKBOURN "A VERY HOT TICKET" T Out Eves 7.45 Sat 4 & 8 Mat Tue 3

GLOBE 071-437 3667 cc 071-793 1000/ 071-379 4444/ (no fee)/ 071-240 7200 (big fee) PATRICIA HEARD MALANDRE CURRAN SUSAN WOOLDRIDGE MAP OF THE HEART by William Nicholson Directed by Peter Wood Perfs from 28 February

GREENWICH THEATRE 081 858 7755 Eves 7.45 Sat Mats 2.30 Feb 12 at 7.00 PATRICIA ROUTLEDGE in THE CORN IS GREEN by Emlyn Williams

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL BO 071 930 8800 or 24hr hotline 071 379 4444 (no fee) 071 497 9977 (big fee) 071 793 1000 (big fee) JOHN GORDON SINCLAIR & JIM CARTER are "GASPING" by BEN ELTON Directed by Bob Spiers "Breathlessly funny" I on Sun "Gasping" FT MON - THURS 8.00pm FRI EVE 8.30 pm SAT 6pm & 8.30pm Box Office Now Open MUST END 16TH FEB '91

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL B.O. 071 930 8800 NO FEE SILLY COW by BEN ELTON STARRING DAWN FRENCH MON THUR EVEN 8.00pm FRI and SAT EVEN 8.45pm MATS FRI and SAT 6.00pm

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HOWES MEAD 071 226 1916. 8pm SWEETPEOPLE (with Anna Carteret & Jennie Stoner).

LONDON PALLADIUM 8/O & CC 437 7373 The Opera North/RSC Production of SHOW BOAT Returns for a limited season from March 13

LONDON PALLADIUM BO & CC 071 437 7373/ 071 437 2055 CC 24hrs 071 497 9977 (no big fee) 071 793 1000 071 379 6444 (bkg fee) Groups 071 240 7941 RUSS ABBOT'S PALLADIUM MAD HOUSE The New All Laughter Spectacular with Russ Abbot Lisa Maxwell and Company Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30. FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY

LONDON PALLADIUM BO 071 437 7373/437 2055 cc 24hr 379 4444 (no big-fee) 497 9977 24hr (big fee) JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber Starring JASON DONOVAN Previews from 1st June Opens 12th June

LYRIC, Shaftesbury Ave 071 437 3686 cc 24hrs (no bkg fee) 379 4444 "SONG & DANCE DYNAMITE" Daily Mail FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE "A JOYOUS WALLOPING HIT" Guardian "The joint never stops jumpin" Time Out (Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat at 6.00 & 8.45) APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS AND CANCELLATIONS

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 cc no bkg fee 071 836 3464/ 379 6433 SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in VOLPONE by Jonson 2.30pm MERCHANT OF VENICE by Shakespeare 7.30pm STUDIO 081 741 8701 NO ONE WRITES TO THE COLONEL by Gabriel Garcia Marquez 4.30 & 8pm

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 071 405 0072 CC 404 4079 Grps 405 1567 (All sales by mail from mail from fixed run now 379 4444 This from W H Smith Travel Branches (Grp bkg) 930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER / T S ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION PLEASE BE PROMPT. Seats 9953 @ £25 NOW BOOKING THRU OCT SEATS NOW AVAIL

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OLD VIC Box Office & CC 071 928 7616 cc (big fee) 24hr 7200/379 4444/793 1000 Grps 930 6123 Mon-Fri 7.30, Wed mat 2.30, Sat 4.00 & 7.45 JOAN PLOWRIGHT "A great actress at the very peak of her powers" Sun Exp: in TIME & THE CONWAYS Directed by Richard Eyre "RESERVES TO BE A SELL-OUT" Daily Express LAST TWO WEEKS

PALACE THEATRE 071-434 0909 cc24hrs (no big fee) 071 379 4444/497 9977/793 1000 Group Sales 071 930 6123 Grps 071 494 1671 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES THE MUSICAL SENSATION Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval NOW BOOKING THRU SEPT 91 APPLY TO BOX OFFICE DAILY FOR RETURNS & CANCELLATIONS

PHOENIX BO 071 867 1044 cc (no big fee) 867 1111/379 4444 cc (big fee) 071 793 1000/071 497 9977 GRPS 240 7941 VERY MUSICAL 1990 EVENING STD AWARDS JULIA McKENZIE BRENDA STANTON PATSY ROWLANDS CLIVE CARTER & NICHOLAS PARSONS in The Sondheim/Lapine Musical INTO THE WOODS Eves 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30 MUST END 23RD FEBRUARY

PLAYHOUSE BO & cc 071 839 4401 cc First Call 24hr 071 379 9463 (no bkg fee) PETER HALL COMPANY TWELFTH NIGHT Previs 20/27 Feb Opens 28 Feb at 7 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 12 WEEKS ONLY NO GROUP PLAYHOUSE

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 First Call 24 hr 836 3464 Ticketmaster 379 4444 K Prowse 071 793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 240 7941/930 6123 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 CHILDREN OF EDEN "EXPLODES ONTO THE STAGE... A BURST OF COLOUR, ENERGY AND PURE JOY" Today by John Coast Stephen Schwartz

QUEENS Shaftesbury Ave 071 734 1166 cc 071 793 1000 071 497 9977 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) VANESSA LYNN REDGRAVE REDGRAVE JEMMA REDGRAVE and STUART WILSON THREE SISTERS "Mature, funny, indisputably Sad" Obs "Breathtaking" D.Mail Directed by ROBERT STURUA Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 LAST FOUR WEEKS

QUEENS 071-734 1166 cc 071 379 4444 (No bkg fee) 071-497 9977/071 793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 071-930 6123 STEPHANIE JOSIE BARRINGTON POWERS & NICKY HENSON MATADOR A New Musical Previews from 2nd April

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY STRATFORD UPON AVON 07789 295623 cc Mon Sat 9am 8pm) WINTER VISITORS' SEASON ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE 11 23 Feb THE ROYAL BOUNCERS Tom't 7.30. For Free leaflet phone 0789 295301

ROYAL COURT 071-730 1745 CC 071 856 2428 ALL THINGS NICE by Sharman Macdonald. Evgs 8.00 Sat Mat 4.00 THEATRE UPSTAIRS 071-730 2554 Young Writers' Festival Evgs 7.30 Festival short form

SADLER'S WELLS 071 278 8916 SUSAN SURENNE HAMPSHIRE MATSUMOTO BA in Rodgers & Hammerstein's THE KING AND I Eves 7.30, Wed & Sat mats 2.30 12 Feb at 7pm. GROUP SALES 071 930 6123 cc (no bks fee) 071 793 1000/379 6444/240 7200 & WOMS 836 1971 Until 30 March

SHAFTESBURY 071 379 5399 cc 071 379 6444/071 793 1000(no big fee) 071 497 9977(Big Fee) Groups 071 930 6123 Theatre of Comedy Company DONALD SINDEN MICHAEL WILLIAMS in RAY COONEY'S "HOWLEY FUNNY" (D Tel) OUT OF ORDER "A TRIUMPH" (F Times) ALL PERFS EXCL. SAT. EVG. 4 tickets for the price of 3. 8.00 nightly Sats 5.30 & 8.30 Wed mat 2.30

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071 836 9987 cc 071 793 1000 (no fee) & 24 hr cc 836 2428 / 379 4444 (bkg fee) Mon-Fri 7.45 Mats Wed 3.0 Sats 5.0 & 8.30 HANNAH GORDON PETER BARKWORTH KEVIN McNALLY in HIDDEN LAUGHTER "SIMON GRAY'S BEST PLAY FOR YEARS" D Telegraph "SUPERBLY WRITTEN" Times

VICTORIA PALACE 071-834 1317 CC 071-379 4444/240 7200 071-793 1000 (bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123 BUDDY The Buddy Holly Story "EXHILARATING Sun "SENSE UNADULTERATED FUN... 'I LOVE THIS SHOW'" Sun Exp. "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel Mon-Thurs 8.00 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30. ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAY 5.30 PERF 2nd BIRTHDAY YEAR NOW BOOKING TO SEPTEMBER 28

WHITEHALL BO & cc (no fee) 867 1119 cc 867 1111/379 4444 (no fee) 497 9977/793 1000 ALAN AYCKBOURN'S ASSIST PERF THE ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR "leaves the viewer weak with laughter and admiration" D Tel "A CHALLENGE ANYONE NOT TO LAUGH OUT LOUD" Today Eves 8 Mats Thurs 3 Sat at 4.30

WYNDHAMS 071 867 1116 CC 071 379 4444/793 1000 (No Fee) & 24hr CC 836 2428 (Big Fee) SHEILA GISH CLIVE FRANCIS JOSEPH MAHER in WHAT THE BUTLER SAW by JOE ORTON "HISTORICAL FUNNY" D Tel Eves 8.00 Fri & Sats 6.00 & 8.40

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CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St, off Charing Cross Rd 071 240 9661 DECEMBER BRIDE (PG) Progs at 2.20 (not Sun) 4.25 6.35 8.40

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Saturday 9 Feb. 7.30 pm — PIOTR ANDERSZEWSKI piano. London Pianoforte Series. Generational 21-year-old Polish pianist from the Leeds Piano Competition 1990. Beethoven: 6 Bagatelles Op 126. Chopin: Variations Op 12O £10 (all others sold) HOH

Sunday 10 Feb. 11.30 am — ISRAEL PIANO TRIO. Sunday Morning Coffee Concert. Mozart: Trio in E K542 Schubert: Trio in B flat D898. £5 including programme & coffee+sherry+juice

Sunday 10 Feb. Matinee time 4 pm — RAPHAEL SOMMER cello DANIEL ADNI piano. Bach, Sonata in D BWV1028 Britten, Sonata in C Op 65. André Jolivet, Nocturne Rakhmaninov Sonata in G minor Op 19. This concert is dedicated to the memory of Paul Tortelier. £10 £8 £6 £5 Encore Concerts

Monday 11 Feb. 7.30 pm — SERGEI YSUDCHIN piano Prize of Hoogar, Santander Piano Competition 1990 Bach, Overture in the French Style BWV831 Mozart, Fantasia in D minor K397 Brahms: 2 Sonatas Production: Sonata No 6 in A Op 82 £7, £6, £5 £4 Morgan Stanley International/ Assoc Albemi Foundation-Jane Gray

Tuesday 12 Feb. 7.30 pm — MATS LESTROM cello BENGT FORSBERG piano STOCKHOLM CHAMBER BRASS Bach Sonata in G minor BWV1029 Poulenc Sonata (1948) Gerardo Wood: Concerto for cello & brass quintet (1988). Rang-Dieri Sonata in A Op 71 (1807) £8 £7 £5 £5 Jane Gray

Wednesday 13 Feb. 7.30 pm — EMMA JOHNSON clarinet GORDON BACK piano GABOR ORMAI viola (of Takacs Quartet) Bergsaliter: Duo Op 15. Mozart: Trio in E flat K498, "Kegelstatt" Schumann: Marchenerzählungen Op 132, Weber: Grand Duo Concertant £8 £7 £5 £5 Sponsored by the Woolwich Building Society

Thursday 14 Feb. 7.30 pm — JILL GOMEZ soprano ROGER VIGNOLES piano. Valentine's Day LOVE CLASSICS London Concert Orch. Philip Simms cond Murray McLachlan piano Supple: Beautiful Gasshea Oy Grieg: "Morning" from Peer Gynt Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No 1, Bizet: Carmen Suite etc (A rose for every lady in the audience) Raymond Gubbay Ltd

Friday 15 Feb. 7.30 pm — LONDON FORTEPIANO TRIO. Early Music & Baroque Series. Mozart Programme. Concerto of 3 Concerti cons: Mozart, Piano Trio in B flat K502, Trio in G K496, Fantasia in C minor K396, Little Gigue K574 Trio in E K542 £8 £7 £5 £5 Early Music Network

Saturday 16 Feb. 7.30 pm — TALICH QUARTET International Chamber Music. Return of the great Czech Quartet. Smetana, Quartet No. 2 in D minor Mozart: Quartet in D minor K421; Brahms: Quartet in A minor Op 51 No 2 £9 £7 50 £6 £4.50 Clarion-Seven Muses/Jane Gray

Sunday 17 Feb. 11.30 am — TALICH QUARTET Sunday Morning Coffee Concert. Smetana: String Quartet No 1 in E minor "From my Life"; Beethoven: Quartet in E flat Op 74 "The Harp". £5 including programme & coffee+sherry+juice.

Sunday 17 Feb. Matinee time 4 pm — ALFRED BRENDEL piano. London Pianoforte Series. Mozart Bicentenary Concert. ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only) Ingpen & Williams Ltd

Monday 18 Feb. 7.30 pm — RUSSIEN PIANO TRIO. Peter Tassfield violin Margaret Powell cello Michael Dussek piano Haydn: Piano Trio in C Hob.XV-27 Brahms: Trio in C minor Op 101, Beethoven: Trio in B flat Op 97 "Archduke". £7 £6 £5 £4

Tuesday 19 Feb. 7.30 pm — CHILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE ROBERT SALTER director. PAUL NICHOLSON harpsi Corelli: Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 4; Vivaldi: Concerto for 2 cellos RV531 Concerto for 4 violins B min; Bach: Brandenburg No 3, Harpsichord Concerto BWV1058, Handel: Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 11 £9 £7 50 £6 £4.50 Mgt G.S.E

Wednesday 20 Feb. 7.30 pm — FRANCOIS LE ROUX baritone, ERWIN GAGE piano. Schubert: Song Recital Series. Ravel: Don Quichotte à Dulcinée, Debussy: Fêtes Galantes II; Melodies by Fauré & Debussy; Lieder by Liszt, Wolf & Schoeck. £11 £9 £7 (all others sold) Holt

Thursday 21 Feb. 7.30 pm — YSAYE QUARTET. Mendelssohn: String Quartet in E flat Op 12; Ernest Schelhofer: Quartet No 1, Ravel: Quartet in F (1902-3). £8 £7 £6 £5

Friday 22 Feb. 7.30 pm — THE ORLANDO CONSORT ROBERT HARRE-JONES c-ten/ CHARLES DANIELS, ANGUS SMITH tens DONALD GREIG bass THE FEARLESS, THE GOOD AND THE BOLD Music from the Court of Burgundy 1404-1477 Works by Basinois, Fontaine, Vide, Grenon, Binchois, Dufay/Hem. £7 £6 £5 £4

St John's Smith Square Monday 11 February 7.30 pm

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MOZART ..... Quartet in D K575
DVORAK ... Quartet in F Op. 96 No. 3 "American"
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St John's Smith Square Thurs. 28 Feb. 7.30 pm

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Slaves to the bathetic fallacy

Lynne Truss on *The Late Show*, *Horizon*, *First Tuesday* and *Lazarus and Dingwall*



Lazarus and Dingwall: supplying lead-balloon jokes with a panache that is like a "veritable breath of fresh air"

Whenever I tune in to The Late Show (BBC 2), I am immediately wrong-footed by the opening credits. I always forget that there will be that wry little sequence of images (representing fancifully-named varieties of wall-socket, or different styles of orthodontic brace) which makes no sense to me at all. Diddle-diddle diddle-diddle doo-doo-de-dwup goes the clever tongue-in-cheek music, as the images succeed each other at near subliminal speed, and I grasp desperately for their hidden message. I confess I grow resentful and impatient. OK, OK, wall-sockets, schmall-sockets. Will there be a test later, or what?

Some viewers no doubt enhance the experience by laying bets during the dull bits of *Newsnight* about what tonight's subject will be ("Animal faeces!" "Fragments of the true cross!" "Novelty soups!") but at 11 o'clock at night I find I can resist the challenge. And besides, why should I make my own entertainment? So I sit there, grumbling, feeling unwelcome and out of place, a bit like being at a dinner party with immensely clever people, whose peculiar idea of relaxation and fun is to jot down on their napkins all the Romano-Christian mystery religions they can name in 15 seconds.

The reason I mention *The Late Show* is that this week's most awkward televisual moment occurred on Tuesday's programme. Presenter Stuart Cosgrove no doubt expected he was in for an easy night, since there was (unusually) no symposium to chair on the nature of media coverage of the Gulf. In fact, all Cosgrove had to do was ignore the opening whatsits (types of bridges on spectacles, as it happens) and then introduce two items.

But herein lay the problem, because they were not a happy fit. The first was a report about the Latvian film-maker Yuris Podnieks shooting footage of the violent repressions in Riga (it culminated in the shocking death of Podnieks's cameraman), and the second item was a "set" in the studio from a group called Prefab Sprout.

Two things were instructive about this extraordinary juxtaposition of Baltic tragedy and home-grown light entertainment. One was that a newly-acquired knowledge of types of spectacle-bridge afforded the viewer (and Cosgrove) no evident help in dealing with the emotional U-turn required.

The other was that the incident helped to dispose of what I like to call the "bathetic fallacy" that is currently afflicting the broadcasting establishment, and making them keep *M*A*S*H* off the air during wartime. I discovered that I had an option other than to fire off an indignant letter to the Director-General about this mismatch: I could simply switch off the telly after the Podnieks item, prepare a nice bedtime snack of Oxo and marshmallows, and turn in.

I was told this week that the BBC has "never lived down" the dreadful moment in 1963 when news of President Kennedy's assassination was followed on the television by an episode of Harry Worth. This moment of unintentional bathos was deemed to be an appalling error of taste and respect. Yet even in 1963, surely the viewer had the right to say (in the lingo of the day) "Blimey, guvnor, that's a bit of bad news from America all right, and no mistake. Do you know, it's put me right orf watching Harry Worth." Instead of which he made a nuisance of himself with the authorities, with the effect that, from that day to this, if you ask the BBC what it was doing the day President Kennedy was assassinated, it immediately breaks down in penitential sobs, and snivels something incoherent about a man in a trilby playing silly games with his reflection in a shop window.

One of the most distressing things to witness on television is a good story only half-investigated. It is rather like a road that stops abruptly in an arbitrary place because the money ran out. "Is that it?" I find myself muttering, blinking in a bewildered fashion as the credits go up at the end. "Cor, what a swizz."

For example, this week's Horizon (BBC 2) – about the technical miscalculations in the Hubble Space Telescope project – was fine and dandy on the micro-inch spherical aberration front, but there seemed to be a much more interesting story fighting to get out. In passing, we learned that somewhere along the line there had been lowly optics technicians (let's call them Bud and Harry) who knew there was something wrong with the mirror, but whose cries were disregarded. But did we meet Bud and Harry? No we did not. Instead we were shown a number of complicated diagrams of light reflections – presented, in the time-honoured manner, as though they were intrinsically interesting and comprehensible when in fact they were nothing of the kind.

By contrast, Yorkshire's First Tuesday was an exemplary piece of investigation, uncovering the so-called cooking-oil food poisoning in Spain in 1981 and demonstrating pretty conclusively that this huge epidemic was more likely caused by pesticides on tomatoes. This seems like a big-league cover-up story to me.

The Spanish doctors and scientists who dared to contest the official cooking-oil explanation have been dismissed from their jobs, even though the links between the oil and the illness are quite easily disproved.

So why did it suit the Spanish government to blame the poisonings on cooking oil? Well, because to the rest of the world the epidemic could be presented as a local problem affecting only ignorant poor Spanish people who were foolish enough to buy low-grade oil. If it had been revealed, instead, that Spanish salads were smothered in deadly pesticides, the rest of the world might have done something commercially disastrous. They might have stopped importing Spanish produce.

Once convinced of this premise, it was easy for the viewer to be outraged by the repercussions of the cover-up, which *First Tuesday* carefully spelled out, one by one. Victims of the food poisonings who insisted they had not used the oil have been denied compensation. The manufacturers of the oil were made objects of national opprobrium, and sent to jail. But the most awful conclusion of all was that since scientists are not allowed to pursue any other diagnosis than that the poison was linked mysteriously with a harmless oil, the victims will probably never have a hope of proper treatment.

Finally (and how I wish I had Stuart Cosgrove to help out here), to Lazarus and Dingwall (BBC 2), the improbable comic-cops show with the lead-balloon music-hall jokes ("We've been offered a brand new car." "What's the catch?" "It's the thing that keeps the door shut."). What characterises *Lazarus and Dingwall* is that it appears to have no idea where its humour should come from – surreal genre pastiche, comic naturalism, silly jokes, or physical knockabout routines – so it closes its eyes and has a go at the lot, consecutively and concurrently, with a damn-the-consequences panache that is like a veritable breath of fresh air. In fact, I have just one problem with it: 90 per cent of the comedy makes my skin crawl.

BRIEFING

Welsh plan rare bits

BOLSTERED by the extraordinary about-turn in public funding policy which has added over £1 million to its funds, Welsh National Opera has announced impressive plans for 1991/2. Peter Stein, who staged classic WNO productions of *Otello* and *Falstaff*, has been enticed back to produce Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* with Pierre Boulez conducting.

Other new productions, both to be conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, are of Mozart's *Idomeneo* and Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride*. The Mozart will be staged by a newcomer to opera: Howard Davies, best known for his work at the National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company (*Les Liaisons Dangereuses*). The Gluck brings the French production team of Patrice Caurier and Moshe Leiser to Britain for the first time. Once again, it seems, WNO's managing director Brian McMaster has sniffed out untapped Continental talent.

All set for Met?

WHILE American performers quiver over the dangers of transatlantic travel, the Royal Ballet is eagerly snapping up all the American engagements it can. A fortnight in Washington is already announced for next month, including the United States premieres of MacMillan's *Prince of the Pagodas* and Bintley's *Penguin Café*. Now, New York sources speak confidently of a Royal Ballet visit to the Metropolitan Opera House in the summer. There is no official confirmation from Covent Garden yet.

Tragic clown

JERRY Lewis as a clown in a Nazi camp, entertaining children *en route* to Auschwitz: this frightening prospect hit the dust when the comedian's 1972 film *The Day the Clown Cried*, mounted in Sweden, ran out of money. Now there are moves to revive the project, without Lewis, as an American-Soviet venture. Over the years the original script, written in 1961 by Joan O'Brien and Charles Denton, attracted the attention of various actors, including Joseph Schildkraut, Milton Berle and, for the briefest of moments, Charlie Chaplin. Director and cast for the new version, to be filmed in Leningrad, have yet to be signed.

Hear, hear

PATRONS of the Barbican Hall may soon be noticing improvements in the acoustics – a source of continual complaints from artists and audiences since the hall opened in 1982. The Corporation of London, owners of the Barbican, has now appointed Kirkegaard and Associates – a Chicago-based acoustics consultancy – to conduct a feasibility study and make swift recommendations for improvements. Discreet electronic enhancement, *à la* Festival Hall, is apparently not expected to be under consideration.

Last chance . . .

GRAHAM Vick went back to earlier versions of Puccini's *Madam Butterfly* when he first staged it for English National Opera. The strong anti-imperialist stance thus projected – especially in the portrayal of Pinkerton as little short of a chauvinist pig – may not be to all tastes. But the staging is so subtly detailed and ultimately heart-rending that objections are hard to sustain. Last performance of this strongly-sung revival, conducted by Alex Ingram, is at the Coliseum (071-836 3161) tonight.



Graham Vick: producer of *Madam Butterfly*

MARILYN KINGWILL



Unsentimental, wintry widower: John Woodvine as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*

A question of correction

THEATRE

Merchant of Venice
Lyric, Hammersmith

HOW far is it legitimate for a director to correct Shakespeare's anti-semitism in *The Merchant of Venice*? The question has often been raised in recent years, most strikingly by Jonathan Miller in 1970 when he transformed Olivier's Shylock into an imposing Rothschild and the Christians into a genteel lynch-mob.

But rarely has it been more bluntly posed than by the travelling English Shakespeare Company. Its director, Tim Luscombe, played some naughty tricks on *Volpone* at the Lyric on Wednesday night, but those were nothing compared with the rough games to which he subjected *The Merchant of Venice* on Thursday night.

This is Italy, 1938. Mussolini's officer corps spends its days at café tables, doing extravagantly nasal Shylock imitations, and its nights rampaging in devil-masks through the streets carrying Stars of David smeared with graffiti. In one spurious encounter, poor Tubal is beaten half-senseless. Shylock, one feels, must be mad to take Antonio to court, since the presiding Doge is dressed like the Duce and ends the session by swapping fascist salutes with Portia. Even the set's fretwork towers seem designed to evoke the death camps.

This does not merely create difficulties: it turns Shakespeare on his head. What chance of sympathy for heroes and heroines who would happily set up Auschwitz on the Adriatic? Lois Harvey's Portia is a bright, brittle ash-blonde, never more sincere than when she dismisses the Prince of Morocco, her failed wooer, with a sneer about his "complexion". Her successful suitor, Laurence Kennedy's Bassanio, is a bland toff whose humility in the casket scene inevitably comes across as opportunism.

So Luscombe's production goes on. Gratiano is at first a clownish oaf, then a venomous blackshirt screaming slurs at John Woodvine's Shylock. Portia's companion, Nerissa, makes a point of snubbing his daughter, even though poor Jessica is their house-guest; but then so does almost everybody. To be a Jew in this Venice is already to smell the cyanide.

Under the circumstances, it is surprising that Woodvine plays Shylock so unsentimentally. He is the kind of wintry widower it is sadly plausible Jessica would wish to leave, and he does some splendidly grim things with his eyes, voice and knife in court.

Before the Christians break his spirit, he allows himself just one moment of passion, sobbing and impotently beating his breast at the thought of losing Jessica. However, it is enough not just to humanise him, but to leave the impression of a morally rounded character, a victim turned vindictive.

Alas, that balance is missing elsewhere. Luscombe apparently does not trust his audience enough to present them with Christians who are more than cartoon anti-semites, frivolous when not bad. As a result, the love-games that fill the last act, and contain some of Shakespeare's sweetest verse, do not just seem empty. They are bizarre and offensive. *The Merchant of Venice* has effectively become an Italian *Springtime for Hitler*.

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Crisp but not even

CONCERT

Lontano/Martinez
St John's, Smith Square

THOSE few hardy souls who braved it to a whitened Westminster on Thursday evening were rewarded with crisp and, not even, but powerfully alive and beautiful performances from Lontano under Odaline de la Martinez, finishing their winter series of new British music. Others will have the chance to hear a BBC recording of the concert in the spring.

The programme began with Param Vir's *Contrapulse*, scored for a mixed septet bounding with contradictory energies and with contradictory, characterful solo voices edging to be heard. There was also good value from Stephen Varcoe, who sang a George Newson anthology of contemporary verse from Northern Ireland – including a striking setting of Seamus Heaney's "St Francis and the Birds" for monotone voice with trumpet tones and blended woodwind trio. They also gave a strong account of Nigel Osborne's wild-man declaration *I am Goya*, the opening falsetto vocalise quite magical and the ensuing low-baritone rhetoric projected with unselfconscious vigour.

This Osborne piece is 13 years old, so that we now have some idea of what his challenging statements of intent were leading towards. Altogether more tantalising was the first performance of Michael Berkeley's *Entertaining Master Punch*, which owes its title and some of its musical thinking to a Kipling-based opera on which he is working, with David Malouf as librettist. The opera was one of the casualties of the closure of Kent Opera; the hope is now that it will be taken on by Opera North, for performance at Cheltenham in two years' time. If anyone needs encouragement, here it was in this 12-minute fantasy for nine players: four wind, violin and cello, piano, percussion and harp (the eventual opera will be scored for a similar ensemble, Berkeley promises, with the addition of a tigerish trombone).

The ideas in the foretaste are exact, compact and decisive, but worked, often through repetitive textures, into a continuing musical fluidity. The effect is dream-like, but it can also be suddenly sharp or witty, as at the end, where the music disappears with the flick of a wrist. At other points, too, there are disconcerting shifts of perspective, suggesting an altered, darker view, and Berkeley deftly, marvellously conjures a gradual movement of his dream into Balinese territory. Another world is discovered: the pages of *The Jungle Book* open, and then with a shudder close.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Hothouse of emotions from sisters and suitors

DANCE

Winter Dreams
Covent Garden

WHETHER the British understand Chekhov has long been a point of dispute, so spectators will decide according to their own view how far Kenneth MacMillan has succeeded in capturing the spirit of *Three Sisters* in his new piece for the Royal Ballet.

By calling it *Winter Dreams* he makes clear that he has no intention of telling the story of the play, but various incidents are included: even the duel between Irina's suitors, which Chekhov was surely right to keep offstage. The joke of having Tusenbach hold an umbrella as he fires cannot stop the scene from jarring.

For the most part, though, the ballet is a set of separate numbers for the various characters, mainly in solos, duets or trios.

When not so involved, they all sit convivially (gentlefolk and servants alike) round a big table dimly seen behind a curtain at the back, with Philip Gammon's piano at one end to play the Tchaikovsky pieces he has selected and arranged, and a group of guitarists at the other end interpolating Thomas Hartman's arrangements of some traditional Russian music.

The ballet took its origin from the "Farewell" duet created last year for Darcey Bussell and Irek Mukhamedov, now revealed as Masha and Vershinin. Its emotions look less torrid in this extended context, but the dancers have wider scope in earlier entries to develop the characters, he with grave courtesy, she with touching eagerness.

Viviana Durante as Irina is scarcely less prominent and no less vivid, and Nicola Tranah's Olga adds a strong supporting centre. Perhaps it is a pity that MacMillan has felt obliged to give all the other characters their turn; even to a little Russian dance for Gerd Larsen as the nanny.

However well all these numbers are done by, among others, Anthony Dowell as Masha's sad husband, Gary Avis as the brother, Derek Rencher as the drunken doctor and Adam Cooper and Stephen Wicks as the rivals, the effect is to loosen the focus. All the more so since the big ensemble near the beginning is confusingly full of comings and goings, quick confrontations and changes of partner.

Inevitably, the ballet cannot suggest, as the play does, the life of the town outside as contrast to the febrile hothouse emotions of the sisters. Consequently, the parts of *Winter Dreams* may prove greater than the whole; but they are parts which cast and audience obviously relished.

The new work is tactfully designed by Peter Farmer. There is nothing tactful about Ian Spurling's cute, attention-grabbing costumes and quaint choice of a bath-house setting for his new designs for the revival of MacMillan's earliest professional ballet, *Danses Concertantes*.

Behind him, a good cast led by Durante, Bruce Sansom and Errol Pickford did their best to be noticed.

JOHN PERCIVAL



Bussell and Mukhamedov in *Winter Dreams*

THEATRE

Wellington
Rose Theatre, Fulham

MARTIN Wimbush apparently believes that he was born to play the Duke of Wellington. His nose certainly was: this Roman organ was cast in heaven for the job, creating an astonishingly life-like picture. Fortunately, in this entertaining two-hander, facial similarity is not all.

From a snappy opening in which he pre-empts the audience's attention, Wimbush captivates and persuades us of an empathy with his aloof, contradictory, charming and sometimes chilling subject. And just occasionally, through chinks in the polished social armour, we glimpse what Yeats saw when he thought of Julius Caesar: "Like a long-legged fly upon the stream", a mind moving upon silence.

The scene is set at Walmer Castle, home of the duke's latter years; he is a sprightly, dapper 81-year-old, prompted to flirtatious reminiscence by his young friend Lady Salisbury. Unfortunately for Sarah Sherborne, she has only one good line in the entire piece, managing a neat put-down when the duke asks her why all three of her children are called Arthur.

The development of this part beyond coy school-marmishness is something which should be addressed. Still, the emphasis is overwhelmingly masculine – as one feels may have been the case in most of Wellington's relationships with women.

The first half is bitty at times, but contains a selection of Wellington's unforgettable one-liners. Even Sir Thomas Beecham did not surpass the terseness and outrageousness of these.

The second half is more focused, dealing with politics and Wellington's well-known dislike of democracy, parliament and the common man, and rising to sustained drama in a gripping account of Waterloo. Here, most convincingly, we are shown the paradox of a man who could cold-bloodedly calculate that after 300 lashes a man ceases to feel additional pain, and then on the battlefield of his greatest victory exclaimed that "Next to a battle lost, the greatest misery is a battle gained". Such a mixture of callousness and sensitivity have also been found in great artists. It was Wellington's own mother who said that he was "food for powder".

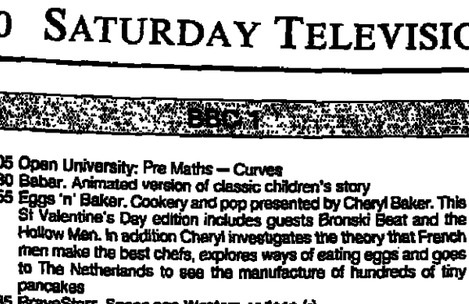
HARRY EYRES

THE SUNDAY TIMES
A long hot affair
"Mr and Mrs Paul Newman do a great deal for one another as a professional couple. While the rest of his peers – Brando, Redford, Nicholson and Beatty – are divorced or running round with women half their age, Newman is respected for his dedication to his wife and his craft."
The Sunday Times Magazine, tomorrow.

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7.05 Open University: Pre Maths — Curves
7.30 Babar. Animated version of classic children's story
7.55 Eggs 'n' Baker. Cookery and pop presented by Cheryl Baker. This St Valentine's Day edition includes guests Bronski Beat and the Hollow Men. In addition Cheryl investigates the theory that French men make the best chefs, explores ways of eating eggs and goes to The Netherlands to see the manufacture of hundreds of tiny pancakes
8.35 BraveStarr. Space-age Western cartoon (r)
9.00 Going Live! Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield present the children's magazine programme, with cartoon action from the Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles and guests, including rock singer Roger Daltrey, animal therapist Peter Neville, and current pop sensations EMF. Plus comedy from Trevor and Simon, videos, phone-ins and letters
12.12 Weather
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: A look back at the week's friendly internationals; 12.30 Skiing: men's downhill action from Val d'Isere; 1.00 News; 1.05 Snooker: the first semi-final of the Benson and Hedges Masters from the Wembley Conference Centre. Jimmy White plays Stephen Hendry; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.40 Final Score
5.10 News with Moira Stewart, and weather
5.20 Regional News and sport. Wales (to 5.50) Wales on Saturday
5.25 Stay Tooned! Animated action and cartoon frolics introduced by Tony Robinson
5.50 Jim'll Fix It. Sir James Savile makes more dreams come true, including, this week, an 18-year-old County Durham girl who wants to be the model on the *Just 17* magazine cover and a 26-year-old from West Yorkshire who wants to meet her hero — Bay City Rollers star Les McKeown. (Ceefax)
6.25 'Allo 'Allo! French resistance farce starring Gorden Kaye. Michelle comes up with another cunning plan to help the British airmen, and René becomes the unwilling editor of the local newspaper. (Ceefax)
6.55 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. More cunning illusions from the master of hocus pocus. His guests include Uno Lanka and theatre critic Sheridan Morley. (Ceefax)
7.40 Bergerac: On the Rocks: John Nettles as detective turned private eye Jim Bergerac in the final spluttering of a turgid series. Offering to drive Charlie to a birthday party in France, Bergerac once again gets more than he has bargained for. Mystery surrounds the disappearance of the birthday girl's valuable necklace, and Jim is called in by the insurance company to investigate. (Ceefax)



Keeping it in the family: Havers, Sheridan, and Britton (8.35pm)

8.35 Don't Wait Up. Likeable George Layton sitcom with Tony Britton and Nigel Havers as the father and son medics. There is trouble for Toby when his article for a medical magazine goes missing. With Dinah Sheridan (r). (Ceefax)
9.05 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Sport and weather
9.25 Midnight Caller: Protection. Slick American crime series starring Gary Cole as Jack Killian, a former cop who is now a late-night DJ and part-time crime fighter. A rash promise results in Killian having to help a couple on the run from a professional killers, set upon them by a drug cartel. (Ceefax)
10.15 The Full Wax. American comedienne Ruby Wax offers another dose of her madcap humour. She meets the Mafioso John Manca, discusses the delights of natural childbirth with Tracey Ullman and is caught sneaking around Joanna Lumley's house
10.50 Snooker. The second semi-final of the Benson and Hedges Masters, introduced by Tony Gubba from the Wembley Conference Centre. The commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Karnehm and Clive Everton
11.50 Film: Big Jake (1971). John Wayne as a tough cattle baron in the story of a father trying to rescue his son from murderous kidnappers. Good star vehicle, with support from Richard Boon and Maureen O'Hara. Directed by George Sherman
1.35am Weather

BBC 2

7.15 Open University
2.45 Mahabarat. Episode 37 of the 91-part Indian epic, which has become cult viewing for its 115 million strong audience in India
3.25 There is Music in the Air. Featuring Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius, given at the Three Choirs Festival in Worcester Cathedral in 1984 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his death. Plus a discussion between Michael Berkeley and the composer Robert Saxton on the nature and religious significance of the work
5.15 Snooker. Tony Gubba introduces more semi-final action from the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre
6.35 Late Again. This week's highlights from the arts and media programme *The Late Show*
7.20 Newsview with Moira Stewart and Lynette Lithgow. Followed by weather
8.05 In Solidarity: Striking Out. The third in a series of four intimate documentaries on the political life of the new Poland. It covers the events of the summer of 1990, when Prime Minister Mazowiecki tried to drag his bankrupt economy into the free market, and the resulting civil unrest which was used by Lech Walesa to forward his political ambitions
9.05 French and Saunders. Comedy duo Dawn and Jennifer engage in *Dangerous Liaisons*, followed by encounters with Andy Warhol and Tanita Tikaram. With guests Nigel Planer and Joan Bakewell, and music from Raw Sex
9.35 John Sessions's Tall Tales: Neighbours and Lovers.
● CHOICE: Spoofing *Neighbours* has become a national sport but Sessions manages a fresh angle by imagining a visit to Ramsey Street by the spare and bearded author of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. The locals tend to confuse this hot-blooded pom with the chap who dressed up like an Arab. But when he persuades Henry to challenge Paul to a nude wrestling match for the hand of Gail, there can be no doubt that this is Lawrence of Nottingham and not Lawrence of Arabia. A working knowledge of the Aussie soap is recommended to viewers wishing to squeeze the last drop from Sessions's elaborately sculptured jokes but those who have contrived to miss the show will surely get the drift. As a prelude to the main encounter, Sessions imagines the earthy miner's son taking tea among the effete sensibilities of the Bloomsbury group
10.00 Rhythms of the World: Caffe Lena.
● CHOICE: For once the rhythms come not from the Third World but the First as the cameras go to Saratoga Springs in upstate New York. Here in 1960 Lena Spencer, the eccentric product of an Italian immigrant family, started a tiny coffee house and theatre. A modest performer herself, she provided a focal point for a community of musicians, including Arlo Guthrie, Kate and Anna McGarrigle and Bob Dylan. Last year, after Lena's death, several of her protegés gathered to pay tribute and Stephen Trombley's film provides a record of their performances. But it is also a study of Lena herself, as recalled by family and friends. She was quite a character, living on the verge of poverty, not bothering to pay her bills and keeping a houseful of very strange cats. But the musicians loved her and she loved them, as a mother loves her children. Obviously they all miss her. (Ceefax)



In memory of a musical focal point: Lena Spencer (10.00pm)

10.55 Twin Peaks. The search for Laura Palmer's killer continues, in David Lynch's blockbusting whodunit (r). (Ceefax)
11.40 Film: Ashes and Diamonds (1958, b/w).
● CHOICE: Andrzej Wajda's trilogy of films about his native Poland in the second world war comes to an end with what is probably still his most powerful and best-known work. Set during the last day of war and the first day of peace, it follows Maciek, a young nationalist partisan, on his mission to kill a leading communist. It is a rich and complex work, which not only examines moral issues of war and peace but provides a subtle analysis of the class and ideological divisions of Polish society. But *Ashes and Diamonds* is dominated by Zbigniew Cybulski's extraordinary performance as Maciek, the enigmatic assassin with rucksack and dark glasses. Dubbed the Polish James Dean, Cybulski played the rebel both on screen and off it and was one of the few East European actors to gain an international following. Like Dean he died young, killed while trying to board the moving Cracow to Warsaw express in 1967. Ends at 1.30

ITV

6.00 TV-am starting with national news and Gulf news
8.05 Hey Hey It's Saturday! Cartoons for younger viewers
9.25 Motormouth. Andy Crane, Gaby Roslin and Neil Buchanan introduce music, cartoons and competitions. There is a report on how the England football team prepared for their friendly match against Cameroon, and Emily Symons from *Home and Away* joins Steve Johnson for a celebrity round of *Mousetrap*
11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage Video slot features Bruce Willis
12.30 Saint & Greavsie. Jimmy Greaves and Ian St John preview tomorrow's Rumbelows League Cup semi-final first leg game between Manchester United and Leeds United
1.00 News and weather 1.05 LWT News and weather
1.10 Grand Sportsmasters. Dickie Davies puts three contestants' sporting knowledge to the test
1.40 World Sport Special. An compilation of fast-moving action from around the world including a look at the important news stories of the week. With profiles of top sports personalities and classic moments in sporting history.
2.10 The Day. A crucial 24 hours in the life of a member of the general public (r)
2.15 Yacht Racing. Action from the Key West competition.
3.10 Film: Pearl of the South Pacific (1955). Dan Merrill (Dennis Morgan) finds himself kidnapped on his own schooner by his partner (David Farrar) and his former sweetheart (Virginia Mayo). The three head to a remote Pacific island where his captors believe there is a fortune in buried treasure. Despite its handsome appearance, this is a tedious film with wooden performances and a perforated script. Directed by Allan Dwan
4.45 News and weather
5.00 Results Service. Elton Welsby presents the day's sports news
5.10 LWT News and weather
5.15 Beverly Hills, 90210. Glossy American drama following the lives of the wishy-washy Walshes, a Minnesota family who suffer a severe case of culture shock on moving to California. (Oracle)
6.10 Catchphrase. Roy Walker invites two new contestants to test their word skills in return for cash prizes and the chance to win a luxury holiday
6.40 Best Of Blind Date. Cilla Black looks back at a selection of memorable moments from past series of Blind Date. (Oracle)



Love on the run: Roger Moore and Britt Ekland (7.40pm)

7.40 Film: The Man With The Golden Gun (1974). Roger Moore's second outing as James Bond sees 007 on the trail of the megalomaniac Scaramanga (Christopher Lee). A stunt-filled bonanza, including such set-pieces as the speed boat chase and the school of martial arts. Britt Ekland provides the love interest along with Maud Adams, who was later to star opposite Moore in *Octopussy*. With Bond regulars Desmond Llewellyn, as the irate Q, Bernard Lee and Lois Maxwell. Directed by Guy Hamilton (Oracle)
9.55 News, sport and weather
10.15 Aspel & Company. Despite its dreadful set, one of the more intelligent and less patronising chat shows. Michael Aspel's guests this evening are linked by a football theme — Cherie Lunghi, star of Channel 4's *The Manageress*, England striker Gary Lineker and opera singer, Jose Carreras, who took part in the 1990 World Cup opera tribute
11.00 Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978). Phil Beddoe (Clint Eastwood) is a moronic trucker and part-time prizefighter who wins an orang-utan, Clyde. After a few adventures together, both primates set off to find an elusive country-and-western singer (Sondra Locke). Brash, bawdy and rather puerile, but many found the slapstick humour refreshing. Directed by James Fargo. Followed by Gulf News report
1.05am Film: Town On Trial (1956, b/w). When a beautiful young girl is strangled with a nylon stocking in a small suburban town, Supt Halloran (John Mills) from Scotland Yard is called in to investigate. He finds no shortage of suspects but a wall of silence. A standard British murder mystery, of the sort that would now be made for television. Directed by John Guillermin
2.45 American College Football. Tennessee v Kentucky
3.45 Backstage
4.00 The Hit Man and Her. More music from a fashionable night spot with Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan
5.05 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art Of Landscape 7.00 Trans World Sport
8.00 The Channel Four Daily. A special edition reporting on all the latest developments in the Gulf
9.15 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line
9.25 Sing and Swing. A collection of performances by jazz stars of the Thirties and Forties (r)
9.30 Listening Eye: Signs of Our Times — The Story of Our Lives. A sign-language story telling session. (Teletext)
10.00 Matters of Taste. Jancis Robinson concludes her series on food and drink with a look at what life is like behind the scenes of the restaurant trade (r). (Teletext)
10.30 Film: Just William (1939, b/w). Dicky Lupino stars as Richmal Crompton's mischievous schoolboy hero who, aided by his gang of young "outlaws", sets out to help his father win the local council election. On the way, William and his friends become involved in a series of comic misadventures. With Roddy McDowall, Fred Emney and Basil Radford. Directed by Graham Cutts
11.55 Cervantes. Short film about the life of Miguel de Cervantes, author of *Don Quixote*
12.30 The Munsters (b/w). Return of the classic comedy about one of America's spookiest families (r)
1.00 Film: My Gal Sal (1942). Rita Hayworth makes the first of her two appearances of the afternoon in this breezy musical set in the Gay Nineties. The film follows the work and love life of songwriter Paul Dresser (brother of the novelist Theodore Dreiser) with Victor Mature playing the central part. An enjoyable biopic crammed with catchy songs. Directed by Irving Cummings
2.55 Film: Cover Girl (1944). Classic Columbia musical in which Rita Hayworth plays a dancer who is torn between her love for Gene Kelly, the owner of the Brooklyn nightclub in which she works, and a Broadway producer (Lee Bowman) whom she meets at an audition. Hayworth is stunningly elegant and Kelly's dancing is on top form. The Jerome Kern-Ira Gershwin musical score, featuring the Oscar winning song "Long Ago and Far Away", is a treat and the film is sumptuously photographed in Technicolor by Rudolph Mate. Directed by Charles Vidor 4.55 In and Out. Animation
5.05 Brookside. Soap set in a Liverpudlian cul-de-sac (r). (Teletext)
6.30 Right to Reply. Muslims comment on how they have been represented by the media during the Gulf war
7.00 The World This Week examines how the Muslim world has been split by the Gulf war. Includes interviews with Yassir Arafat and the prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif. Followed by Weather
8.00 The Land of Europe: A Place in the Country.
● CHOICE: An international project involving film-makers from Britain, Finland, France and the Soviet Union seeks to present "an authentic portrait of the realities of rural living across Europe". The series kicks off with a film by Mike Alexander which contrasts the sparsely populated Grampian region with Buckinghamshire, where the countryside is fast disappearing under London overspill. Alexander's approach is to illustrate changes and trends through selected individuals from the two areas. His Scottish cast includes a laird, a dry stone waller and a sheep shearer, while in Buckinghamshire we hear from a vet, a tree feller and a farmer. The implicit message is that despite everything the rural tradition is still resilient. The person who most regrets change is the vet, who once dealt exclusively with farm animals and now treats only domestic pets. He is also the most despondent about the future. (Teletext)



Resilient to change: a Grampian dry stone waller (8.00pm)

9.00 LA Law. Continuing the hit American series chronicling the lives, both personal and professional, of a group of Los Angeles lawyers. (Teletext)
10.00 Small Stages: Me and My Friend. Television staging of Gillian Plowman's fringe play which won the 1988 Verity Bargate award when it was first performed at the Soho Poly Theatre in London. A study of the disturbing implications of psychiatric care, it tells how four former patients learn how to cope with everyday life and make a full return to the outside world. With Steve Swinscoe, Tim Stern, Nicola Redmond and Sonia Ritter.
11.30 Channel 4 News featuring reports on all the latest developments in the Gulf
11.50 After Dark. This week the live, open-ended and sometimes controversial discussion programme tackles the marketing of RU 486 — the abortion pill

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am Elephant Boy 6.30 The Flying Kiwi 7.00 Fun Factory 11.00 The Bionic Woman 12.00 Beyond 2000 1.00pm Combat 2.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 3.00 Cool Cube 5.00 Chopper Squad 6.00 Parker Lewis Can't Lose 8.30 The Addams Family 7.00 Free Spirit 7.30 In Living Color 8.00 China Beach 9.00 Designing Women 9.30 Murphy Brown 10.00 The Happening 11.30 Monsters 12.00 A Twist in the Tale 12.30am Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra satellite.
● The following schedule may be subject to alteration.
News on the hour.
5.30am European Business Today 6.30 The Reporters 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 10.30 Motor Sports News 11.30 Health Circuit 12.30pm Fashion TV 1.30 The Reporters 2.30 International Business Report Week 3.30 Health Circuit 4.30 Motor Sports News 5.00 Live at Five 5.30 Fashion TV 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 International Business Report 8.30 Health Circuit 10.30 Fashion TV 11.30 The Reporters 12.30am International Business Report Week 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Those Were the Days 3.30 CBS News 4.30 Motor Sports News

SKY NEWS

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
● The following schedule may be subject to alteration.
News on the hour.
5.30am European Business Today 6.30 The Reporters 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 10.30 Motor Sports News 11.30 Health Circuit 12.30pm Fashion TV 1.30 Opera: Adriana Lecouvreur 4.30 Concert: Beethoven's Missa Solemnis 8.30 The Reporters 7.30 The Dutch National Ballet 10.30 Jazz: Cecil Taylor 11.30 The Reporters 12.30am International Business Report Week 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Those Were the Days 3.30 CBS News 4.30 Motor Sports News

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
6.00 The World at their Feet (1970): Action from the 1970 World Cup finals
10.00 The Return of the Incredible Hulk (1986): Starring Bill Bixby, Lou Ferrigno
11.55 David and Bathsheba (1951): Biblical epic, starring Gregory Peck as King David
2.00pm Friendship in Vienna (1988): The friendship of two Austrian girls is threatened by German anti-Semitism in 1939
4.00 September (1986): Woody Allen's romantic comedy set in a country house
6.00 Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988): The police rookies take off for Florida
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Police Academy 6: City Under Siege (1989). Starring Bubba Smith
10.00 Miles from Home (1989): Powerful drama about farmers in the American mid-west in the Eighties. Starring Richard Gere
11.45 Angel (1984): A young girl takes to the streets of LA to pay for her school tuition
1.15am Screwball Hotel (1988): Raucous comedy about a seedy Miami hotel
2.55 Man on Fire (1987): A former CIA man becomes the guardian of a society girl
4.25 Too Young the Hero (1988): A 12-year-old enlists in the US navy. Ends at 6.00

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Children's Programming 7.00 Fun Factory 8.30 Saturday Alive: Ford Ski Report; World Cup Skiing; Nordic Skiing World Championships; World Cup Skiing; Nordic Skiing World Championships; Bobsleigh World Championships; Freestyle Skiing; Olympic Special — 16 Days of Glory; World Cup Skiing Highlights 5.30pm BOC Round the World Race 6.00 Six-Day Bike Race 7.00 Freestyle Skiing 7.30 Handball: Ladies World Championships 8.30 World Championship Speedskating 9.30 Boxing 10.30 Bobsleigh World Championships 11.00 World Cup Today 12.00 Cycling

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Ice Skating 8.00 World Snooker Classics 10.00 Motor Sport Sunbank 24 Hours 12.00 Stop-Mud and Monsters 1.00pm Ice Racing Team World Championships 2.00 Horseracing 2.15 NBA Basketball 4.15 Powersports 5.15 US Pro Ski Tour 6.00 Athletics AAA/WAAA 7.30 Pro Box 9.30 Golf 11.30 Ice Racing World Championships 12.30am Sport en France 1.00 Ice Hockey NHL 3.00 French Rugby League 4.30 NBA Basketball 8.30 US Pro Boxing

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
12.00 Johnny Ringo 12.30pm The Bill Dana Show 1.00 The Joan Rivers Show 1.50 He Shoots! He Scores 2.45 Dixons Photo Show 3.00 World Class Championship Wrestling 4.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 Close 10.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
11.30am Ice Castles (1979): A young skater practises under imperfect conditions
1.25pm The Bad News Bears (1976): Former baseball ace Walter Matthau dreams of starting his own little-league team
3.15 Cry Freedom (1987): Set in South Africa, the true story of the friendship between the white journalist Donald Woods and the black activist Steve Biko
6.00 Nadine (1987): Comedy about a couple on the verge of divorce. Starring Jeff Bridges and Kim Basinger
7.45 The Film Charts
8.00 The Last Emperor (1987): The last emperor of China witnesses the collapse of his empire following the Japanese invasion
10.45 Last Rites (1988): A priest uses the power of the church to save a young girl from the Mafia. Starring Tom Berenger
12.20am Coming to America (1988): An African prince (Eddie Murphy) goes to America to find his perfect bride
2.15 Positive ID (1987): A young woman plots revenge against her vicious attacker. Ends at 4.00

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo Satellite.
10.30am Snooker 12.30pm Texas Rodeo Championships 1.30 Racing Today 2.00 ATP Tennis 4.00 American Sports Cavalcade 6.00 American Wrestling 8.00 On Wheels 7.00 NHL Ice Hockey 8.00 ATP Tennis 10.00 Football: Scotland v USSR 11.00 Racing Today 11.30 ATP Tennis

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
8.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

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RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Jenny Costello 7.00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 1.00pm Adrian Juste 2.00 Classic Albums: Ogden's Nut Gone Flake: Small Faces. Richard Skinner talks to members of the band about this 1968 classic 3.00 The Saturday Sequence with Richard Skinner 7.00 The Saturday Rock Show with Alan Freeman 10.00 In Concert: Neville Brothers, recorded at the Glastonbury Festival in June 1990 11.00-2.00am John Peel

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Dave Bussey 6.00 Graham Knight 7.45-7.00 Take 2 with Desmond Carrington (r) 8.05 Ronnie Hilton: Sounds of the Fifties 9.00 Brian Matthew: Sounds of the Sixties 10.00 Anne Robinson 12.00 Gerald Harper: Saturday Selection 1.30pm The News Huddlines (new series) (r) 2.00 Robin Ray on Record 3.00 Gerry Anderson 4.45 Iain Fitcroft at the console of the Wurlitzer organ in the Assembly Hall, Worthing 5.00 Cinema 2 with Charles Nove 5.30 Music by . . . Ron Goodwin: Presented by Ray Pickard 6.00 Bob Holness Requests the Pleasure . . . 7.00 Jazz Score 7.30 Saturday Gala Night: BBC Concert Orchestra Tour of Germany 1990 (4 of 11) 9.30 Easy Does It 10.00 Radio 2 Arts Programme with Sheridan Morley 12.05am Cinema 2 (broadcast at 5.00pm) 12.30-4.00 Andrew Lane with Night Ride

RADIO 3

6.00 World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.05, 8.05, 9.00 Sport 9.02 On Your Marks, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 12.00 News; Sport on 4 Plus 1 (broadcast on Radio 4 at 8.05am) 12.30pm Sports Call: Phone-in quiz. Tel: 0345 909 693 1.30 Sport on 5 with John Inverdale. Football: Barclays League — Liverpool v Everton, Arsenal v Nottingham Forest, Crystal Palace v Tottenham Hotspur; Racing from Newbury: (1.45) Saws and Prosper Game Spirit Chase, (2.20) Tote Gold Trophy Hurdle, Rugby League: Wigan v Castleford in the Silk Cut Challenge 5.00 Sports Report 6.00 As Radio 4 10.00 Sport 10.15 As Radio 4 11.00 Sport 11.10 World Service People and Politics 11.40 The International Money Programme 11.55 Words of Faith 12.00-12.10am News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am German Features 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 6.02 Financial News 6.58 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 London Calling 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.15 24 Hours 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 A Jolly Good Show 9.00 World News 9.15 Here's Humph! 9.30 Financial News 9.39 Sports Roundup 9.45 Network UK 10.00 World News 10.15 Letter from America 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Mid Magazine 11.59 Travel News 12.00 World News 12.15pm Multitrack 3 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World News 1.15 24 Hours 2.00 World News 2.15 Club 648 2.30 Sportsworld 3.00 World News 3.15 Sportsworld (cont) 4.00 World News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News and Features in German 4.59 Travel News 5.00 News Summary 5.15 Sportsworld: Final Results 5.30 London Sor 6.14 News Headlines in English 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 World News 8.08 Society Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Meridian 9.00 World News 9.15 From Our Own Correspondent 9.45 Write On... 9.35 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newshour 11.00 World News 11.15 A Jolly Good Show 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am The Ken Bruce Show 1.00 World News 1.05 Play of the Week: Macbeth 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Cult Heroes: James Dean 3.00 World News 3.15 Society Today 3.30 From Our Own Correspondent 3.50 Write On... 3.59 Weather 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Personal View 4.45 News and Press Review in German

ON VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 2.10pm The A-Team 3.05-4.45 Film: Tennessee's Partner 11.00 Up The Junction 11.50 Film: No Sex Please, We're British 1.35 Hooperman 2.05 The Hit Man And Her 4.00-5.05 Indy Car World

BORDER

As London except: 1.40 the Silk Road 2.40-4.45 Film: Woman of Straw 11.00 First Division Special: Liverpool v Everton 12.00 Film: Salem's Lot 2.05 Hit Man and Her 4.05 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.35-5.05 America's Top Ten

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.40pm Sid Tips 2.10 Guinness Records 2.40 Out Of Limits 2.50-4.45 Film: Crooks and Coronets 11.00 Film: Royal Flash 12.55 Film: 11 Harrowhouse 2.45 Hodson Confidential 3.15 CinemAttractions 3.45 America's Top Ten 4.15-5.05 American Football

CHANNEL

As London except: 2.10pm The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams 3.05-4.45 Film: An Alligator Named Daisy 11.00 The TVS Match 11.50 Film: Prime Cut 1.25 America's Top Ten 1.55 CinemAttractions 2.25 American College Football 3.20 Adventure Bound 4.20-5.05 Supercar

GRAMPIAN

As London except: 1.40 Absil 2.00 Coronation Street 2.55 Matlock 3.45-4.45 Wrestling 11.00 Kojak 12.00 Film: Salem's Lot 2.05 The Hit Man And Her 4.05 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.35-5.05 Top Ten

GRANADA

As London except: 1.40 Matlock 2.55 Guinness Records 3.00-4.45 Film: The Cowboy And The Ballerina 11.00 Football: Liverpool v Everton 12.00 Film: Salem's Lot 2.05 The Hit Man and Her 4.05 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.35-5.05 America's Top Ten

HTV WEST

As London except: 2.10pm The Young Riders 3.05-4.45 Film: Carry On Matron 11.00 Hardball 12.00 Film: The Adventurers 3.05 New Music 4.05-5.00 Raw Power

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 11.00-11.55pm Rugby Round-up

SCOTTISH

As London except: 1.40 Here Come the Double Deckers 2.10 Film: This Is America, Charlie Brown 2.40 Bless This House 4.20-4.45 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 1.05 Film: The Black Windmill 3.05-5.00 Film: High Tide At Noon

TSW

As London except: 1.40pm The South West Week 2.10 Ultra Challenge 3.10-4.45 Film: There Goes The Bride 11.00 The Law And Harry McGraw 12.00 Film: Salem's Lot 2.05 The Hit Man And Her 4.05 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.35-5.05 America's Top Ten

TVS

As London except: 1.40pm World Sport Special 2.10 Hard Time On Planet Earth 3.05-4.45 Film: An Alligator Named Daisy 11.00 The TVS Match 11.50pm Film: Prime Cut 1.25am America's Top Ten 1.55 CinemAttractions 2.25 American College Football 3.20 Adventure Bound 4.20-5.45 Supercar

TYNE TEES

As London except: 2.10pm The A-Team 3.05-4.45 Film: Side by Side* 11.00 Magnum 12.00 Film: Salem's Lot 2.00 The Hit Man And Her 4.05 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.35-5.05 America's Top Ten

ULSTER

As London except: 1.40pm Wrestling 2.40 The A-Team 3.40 The Munsters Today* 4.10-4.45 Guinness Book Of Records 11.00 First Division Special 12.00 Film: Salem's Lot 2.05 The Hit Man and Her 4.05 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.35-5.05 America's Top Ten

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.40pm The A-Team 2.35 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 3.00-4.45 Film: Zorro, the Gay Blade 11.00 Film: The Four Seasons 1.05 The Equalizer 2.05 The Hit Man And Her 4.05-5.05 Derrick

S4C

Starts: 6.00 The Art of Landscape 7.00 Transworld Sport 8.00 C4 Daily 9.15 Morning Line 9.25 Sing And Swing 9.30 Listening Eye 10.00 Class by Class 10.30 The Secret Life of Machines 11.00 Travelog 11.30 Remote Control 12.00 Jonathan Ross 12.30 Sumo 1.00 Film: My Gal Sal 2.55 Film: Cover Girl 4.55 In And Out 5.05 Brookside 6.30 Newyddion 6.45 Nos Sadwrn 7.45 C'mon Midfild 8.30 Y Mase Chwarae 9.35 Film: Paper Moon 11.30 C4 News 11.50 After Dark 1.50 Diwedd

RTE 1

Starts: 9.00am Scratch Saturday 1.00 Chips 1.50 News followed by You Ruined My Life 2.45 Cry of the Beluga 3.40 Film: Oceans of Fire 5.30 To the Waters and the Wild 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 News 6.15 Mailbag 6.40 Talkabout 7.05 Star Trek: The Next Generation 8.00 Secrets 9.00 News 9.20 Dallas 10.15 Kenny Live 11.35 Rules of Engagement 12.30am Close 12.35 Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 12.30pm News 12.34 Sports Stadium 5.10 Barnum And Bailey Circus 6.05 Death And South 9.45 Our Boys 10.25 Film: Asphalt Jungle 12.20am Close.

RADIO 4

6.35-8.55am Open University (FM only)
6.55 Weather; News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Verdi (Overture, Nabucco: LSO under Claudio Abbado); Fauré (Barcarolle in F sharp minor, Op 66: Kathryn Stott, piano); Vivaldi (Concerto in D for strings, RV 210: Franz Liszt CO under Janós Rolla)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Rossini (Overture, Otello: NPO under Riccardo Chailly); Adam (Ah, vous dirai-je maman: South German RSO under Kurt Eichhorn, with Edita Gruberová, soprano); Serasate, arr V. Mendelssohn (Carmen Fantasy: Paganini Ensemble, with Jean-Jacques Kantorow, violin); Dvořák (Symphonic Variations: LPO under Zdenek Macal)
8.30 News
8.35 Northern Sinfonia under En Shao performs Copland (Quiet City: Anthony Cross, trumpet, Colin Kellett, cor anglais); Bliss (Music for strings); Haydn (Symphony No 22, The Philosopher)
9.30 Saturday Review, with Richard Osborne. Record Review — Building a Library: John Warrack on Schubert's Piano Trio in E flat, D 929; Alan Blyth reviews new issues of opera and orchestral songs. 10.40 Record Release: Berlioz (Five Orchestral Songs: Lyon Opera Orchestra under John Eliot Gardiner); Vanhal (Symphony in G minor: Prague CO under Oldrich Vlcek); Donizetti (Lucia di Lammermoor, Act 2: Chorus of La Scala, Milan; RIAS Berlin RSO under Herbert von Karajan); Schubert (Grand Rondo in A, D 951: Bracha Edan and Alexander Tamir, piano duet); Britten (Violin Concerto: ECO under Steuart Bedford, with Lorraine McAslan)
12.55pm Words: No. The barrister Helena Kennedy with a reflection on language (r)
1.00 News
1.05 Ton Koopman, harpsichord, plays Forqueray (Suite No 5 in C minor); Froberger (Tombeau pour M de Blanchrocher; Toccata No 2 in D minor); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in D, Well-Tempered Keyboard, Book 2); Purcell (Ground in C minor); Bernardo Storace (Chaconne in C)
2.05 Fauré and Messiaen at La Madeleine: BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Yan Pascal Tortelier; BBC Welsh Chorus under John Hugh Thomas, with Lillian Watson, soprano, Stephen Varcoe, baritone, perform Messiaen (L'Ascension); Fauré (Requiem, Op 48)
3.15 Philip Mead: The pianist plays Dussek (Piano Sonata in B flat, Op 45 No 1); Bartók (Fifteen Hungarian Peasant Songs); Smetana (Furiant; The Little Onion, Cibuticka, from Czech Dances for piano, Set 2) (r)
4.00 Tuning Up: The double-bass player Chi-Chi Nwanoku talks to Chris de Souza about her versatile career. With the cellist Richard Lester, she performs music-theatre works by Tom Johnson and Joelle Leandre, and duets by Rossini and Pleyel
5.00 Jazz Record Requests, with Charles Fox
5.45 Third Opinion, with Christopher Cook. Includes reviews of Kenneth MacMillan's ballet, *Winter Dreams*; Donald Barthelme's novel, *The King*; and Kevin Costner in the film *Dances with Wolves*
6.30 Rachmaninov and Franck: Fine Arts Quartet performs Rachmaninov (Quartet Movements); Franck (Quartet) (r)
7.30 Lucio Silla
● CHOICE: Even the knowledge that Mozart had already written an opera buffa and an operetta by the age of 12 does not make it any the less remarkable that the *wunderkind* could have penned *Lucio Silla* when he was 16. There is scarcely a bar in this opera when you cannot hear the young Mozart panting as he flexes his muscles before tackling *The Magic Flute*, *Don Giovanni* and the rest of his operatic masterpieces. Tonight's recording is the Vienna State production, with Thomas Moser as the Italian dictator and Edita Gruberová as the senator's wife he lusts after
10.40 Issues (r)
11.05 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Jan Latham Koenig performs John Hopkins (Faustus) (r)
12.00 News 12.05am Close

RADIO 4 FM

● FM: Most scheduled programmes will be suspended to give news of the Gulf war. The following schedule, on MW and LW, is subject to alteration:
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 The Farming Week 6.50 Prayer for the Day 7.00 Today, incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.55, 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Sport on 4
9.30 Breakaway: Ken Bruce with travel and holiday news
10.00 News; Loose Ends, with Ned Sherrin and guests
11.00 News; The Week in Westminster, with Robin Oakley, political editor of *The Times*
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 Money Box, with Louise Botting and Vincent Duggleby
12.25 Just a Minute: The non-stop talking game, hosted by Nicholas Parsons 12.55 Weather
1.00 News
1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Chester by Robin Cook, MP; Dr David Owen, MP; Dr Maha Azam; and Andrew Neil (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Any Answers? 071-580 4411. Listeners can call Jonathan Dimbleby with their views on the issues raised in *Any Questions?*
2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Christopher and Columbus. Barbara Clegg's and Olwen Wymark's dramatisation of Elizabeth von Arnim's novel. In 1916, German orphans Anna Rose and Anna Felicitas von Twinkler journey to America in search of their relatives. With Jane Whitenshaw and Philippa Ritchie
3.45 Playback: Mrs Dale's Diary. The first of three programmes on past radio shows (r)
4.00 News; Lawrence Among the Swells: Nesta McDonald uncovers a flirtation between the young D.H. Lawrence, a beautiful American heiress and a famous pianist (r)
4.30 Science Now: A report on how environments can be recreated
5.00 God and Caesar: Mike Wooldridge talks to Dr Garret FitzGerald (r)
5.25

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BBC 1

6.45 Open University
8.55 Playdays from Mumbles, Swansea
9.15 Morning Worship. A special service introduced by Mike Wooldridge commemorating the opening of the seventh assembly of the World Council of Churches
10.00 A Vous la France! French for beginners (r). Wales (to 12.30pm) See You Sunday 10.25 España Viva. Beginners' Spanish (r) 10.50 Step up to Wordpower. For adults with reading and writing difficulties (r) 11.15 A Way with Numbers. Useful tips on coping with everyday maths
11.40 Bazaar. Nerys Hughes offers some more tips on how to save effort, time and, most importantly, money (r) 12.05 See Hear! Magazine programme for members of the deaf community
12.30 Country File reports on the residents of the Brecon Beacons National Park who have signed a petition expressing a vote of no confidence in the park planners. Wales: Farming in Wales 12.55 Weather
1.00 News with Moira Stuart followed by On the Record. Gerald Kaufman explains opposition policy on the Gulf war; and a report on the battle over Cheltenham's black Conservative candidate
2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (r) (Ceefax)
3.00 Snooker. Tony Gubba introduces the first seven frames of the best-of-17 frame final of the Benson and Hedges Masters
5.05 The Clothes Show. Selina Scott looks into the manufacture of that uniquely British item of footwear — the Wellington boot. Jeff Banks attends the first collection from French designer Marc Bohan for the English house of Hartnell
5.30 Antiques Roadshow. Hugh Scully invites viewers in Ayr, Scotland, to bring along their heirlooms for evaluation at the hands of a group of experts. (Ceefax)
6.15 OK? Talk Feelings. Fifth of eight programmes taking a look at human emotions. Steve and Rob have both cried in public and they discuss how this break from stereotypical male behaviour has affected them and how others reacted to their display of emotion. (Ceefax)
6.25 News with Moira Stuart. Weather
6.40 Songs of Praise from St Andrew's Church, Ayr. (Ceefax)
7.15 Snooker. Further coverage of the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters
8.05 Lovejoy: One Born Every Minute. Priceless drama series starring Ian McShane as the dodgy antiques dealer. When Lovejoy is given the job of hunting down an itinerant artist, he is unaware that Major Chatfield's desire to get his hands on the elusive painter is not all it seems. (Ceefax)
9.00 That's Life! The usual investigations, real-life stories and failed attempts at humour
9.40 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax)
9.55 Mastermind introduced by Magnus Magnusson from the Academy Room at Stonyhurst College. Specialist subjects are the reign of Henry VII; Barbara Pym; Antarctic exploration 1897-1922; and the life and career of Erwin Rommel



No safeguard from violence: Burma's Buddhist monks (10.25pm)

10.25 Everyman: Forty Million Hostages.
● CHOICE: Having graphically exposed the abuse of human rights in Ceausescu's Romania and Saddam's Iraq, *Everyman* turns to Burma. Or rather, since western journalists are denied access to Burma, it turns to Burmese refugees living in Thailand. Their stories of violence and degradation practised by the military dictatorship make up a horrifying catalogue, even if the Burmese government persists in denying them. As a sample, a woman tells how her brother was forced to dig his own grave. He then had his arms and legs cut off and his eyes gouged out, was pushed into the grave, shot twice in the head and buried. And all this in a country that was supposed to have enjoyed the civilising influence of British colonial rule. Much of the violence is directed against ethnic minorities but no one is safe, not even the country's 200,000 Buddhist monks.
11.10 Snooker. *The last frames of the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters*
12.10am Clean State. Jackie Spreckley reports on British employment training (r)
12.40 Mahabharat. Episode 37 (r) 1.20 Weather

BBC 2

7.00 Open University
12.00 Regional Political Programmes. Wales: See Hear!; Northern Ireland: A Taste of Ireland
12.30 Scrutiny. Iain MacWhirter looks into the work of parliamentary committees. (Ceefax)
1.00 The New Explorers: Seeds of Success. Nick Rose asks whether the UK is short of investment or innovation
1.25 One in Four. Magazine programme for the disabled. An examination of the background to the case of Beverley Lewis, a deaf-blind woman who died two years ago (r)
1.55 There is Music in the Air. The BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra performs Edward Elgar's First Symphony, conducted by Andrew Davis. Michael Berkeley introduces the performance and discusses the work with composers David Matthews and Nicholas Maw
3.00 Film: The Proud Ones (1956). An undemanding but watchable Western starring Robert Ryan and Virginia Mayo. Ryan plays Marshall Silver of Flat Rock, a booming frontier town, whose quiet patch is disturbed by the opening of a new gambling saloon. Stricken by sudden attacks of blindness, he has to drive out the gunslingers and deal with the vengeful son of a man he killed, before he can carry off his leading lady. Director Robert D. Webb
4.30 The Clive James Interview. As a prelude to his new series of interviews starting next week, the witty one from Down Under invites Amos Oz, a leading Israeli novelist and expert on the Arab/Israeli conflict, to air his views on the Gulf war
5.05 Rugby Special. Highlights of yesterday's Courage League match between Bath and Gloucester. Plus a preview of next week's Calcutta Cup encounter between England and Scotland at Twickenham. Wales: Cardiff v Pontypridd, Swansea v Bridgend
6.05 Sid Sunday. The man's downhill from Val d'Isere
6.35 The Money Programme. John Penycate reports on America's debt-ridden banking system
7.15 The Natural World: Two Weeks to Save the Earth. The important Earthwatch conservation project offers a holiday with a difference and a genuine chance to do something constructive about the fragile world in which we live. Participants may find themselves flying off to Australia to count beetles, measuring leaves in Alaska, or digging up mammoths in South Dakota. (Ceefax)
8.05 In Solidarity: Decision. The last of four documentaries tracing Poland's first year of democracy after the collapse of the communist rule. The makers of the films were able to chronicle the public and private lives of leading political figures at a great turning point in Poland's history. With communist General Jaruzelski ousted, the election campaign could begin, but Lech Walesa and arch rival Mazowiecki met stern competition from an unexpected quarter



Victim of the McCarthy witchhunt: Daniel J. Travanti (9.00pm)

9.00 Screen Two: Fellow Traveller.
● CHOICE: Shown to wide acclaim last year in the cinema, Philip Saville's film offers a searching examination of the McCarthy witchhunt in the United States. Ron Silver plays a Hollywood screenwriter who flees to London in the Fifties to escape the blacklist and finds work churning out scripts for a Robin Hood television series. News comes through that an actor friend (Hart Bochner), also active on the American left, has committed suicide in Beverly Hills. The unravelling of the reasons for the death form the core of a narrative which unfolds like a thriller and also involves the actor's former girlfriend (Imogen Stubbs) and a fellow-travelling psychiatrist (Daniel J. Travanti). But it is a drama of ideas rather than action as Michael Eaton's intelligent (and often funny) script boldly takes on both Marx and Freud and presents an analysis of the witchhunt which refuses to see it in simple black and white. (Ceefax)
10.35 Film: Sunday, Bloody Sunday (1971) starring Peter Finch, Glenda Jackson and Murray Head. A bisexual young designer, Bob, shares his sexual favours with a homosexual doctor and a divorced business consultant in her mid-thirties. Despite the emotional turmoil, each tacitly accepts the situation until one fateful weekend when Bob decides to bring matters to a head. An emotive drama with strong performances which director John Schlesinger occasionally lets slip out of his control
12.20am Snub. The cult music show with videos, interviews and studio performances (r). Ends at 12.55

ITV

6.00 TV-am
7.30 Frost on Sunday. Includes News with Beatrice Hollyer at 8.00 and 9.00
9.25 The Disney Club. A special St Valentine's Day edition of the children's show with dancing Chinese lions, racehorses, heartbroken parrots and music from Vanilla Ice
10.45 Link: A Hopeless Case. A profile of Al Davison, a spina bifida victim, who was written off by doctors at an early age as being a hopeless case
11.00 Morning Worship from All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard
12.00 Encounter. A look at the life and work of Bob Holman, a committed Christian social worker, who gave up an important academic position at Bath university to work on a tough Glasgow estate
12.30 LWT News Weekend
1.00 News and weather
1.15 War in the Gulf with Brian Walden and Donald McCormick
2.00 Charlie's Angels. Kate Jackson, Jaclyn Smith and Cheryl Ladd star as the three ex-policewomen who work for the enigmatic law enforcer, Charlie (r)
2.55 The Match. Live coverage from Old Trafford of the Rumbelows league cup semi-final, first leg match between Manchester United and Leeds United. Plus a round-up of all the first division matches over the the weekend.
5.05 Matlock. Matlock investigates the murder of a rich woman and discovers the answer lies with the dead woman's two nieces, not her husband. Starring Andy Griffith
6.00 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge quiz game
6.30 News and weather 6.35 LWT News and weather
6.40 Appeal. Esther Rantzen appeals on behalf of Demand, an organisation that designs and manufactures specialised equipment for disabled people
6.45 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe visits Dorchester
7.15 Murder She Wrote: How To Make a Killing Without Really Trying. Jessica's stockbroker is the victim of a high-stakes murder which is leaving the police clueless. When Jessica offers her wisdom, she uncovers a world of blackmail and embezzlement. (Oracle)
8.05 You've Been Framed! Sometimes hilarious home videos
8.35 News and weather 8.55 LWT Weather
9.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Double Clue. Stylishly-mounted but undernourished mysteries featuring the irritating Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. This week he falls in love while investigating a series of jewel robberies (Oracle)
10.00 The New Statesman: Profit of Boom. Rik Mayall stars as the outrageous Conservative MP Alan B Stard. Alan goes to Moscow to spread the capitalist word. However, his zest for the sound of his own rantings turns out to be potentially damaging for East-West relations, not to mention his own health. (Oracle)
10.30 The South Bank Show: Willard White.
● CHOICE: A friendly profile of the opera singer and actor takes the subject back to his Jamaican roots before moving through his stage successes since he made his British debut in the mid-Seventies. If the result is a shade bland, then this stems from the nature of the man. He seems to be widely liked, both as a person and a performer, and, at least as presented here, the progress from a poor rural background in the West Indies to the opera stages of Europe has been mainly smooth and untroubled. He even had the good fortune, not apparently given to many, to enjoy a loving relationship with a stepmother. The film shows White in performance and rehearsal and highlights roles of particular distinction such as his Glyndebourne Porgy and Stratford Othello. Trevor Nunn, who directed both productions, has nice things to say about White and so has everyone else.



Playing the title role in *Othello*: Willard White (10.30pm)

11.35 The ITV Chart Show (r)
12.35 New Music. Celebrity and pop video show
1.35 Indy Car Racing. More open-chassis car racing from the US
2.35 Pick of the Week. The best from the regions
3.10 Film: Situation (1973). Michael Hausserman stars as a hustler who tries to set three gangs of rival bank robbers against one another. Everything appears to be going well until his girlfriend Rita Tushingham starts to asks questions. A West German film with English dialogue, directed by Peter Patzak
4.40 Adventure 5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily with the latest news from the Gulf
7.30 Dr Snuggles 8.00 The Bluffers 8.30 Bobobobs 9.00 Early Bird
9.25 Sangeetanjali. New four-part series concerned with Bengali classical, folk and popular music. The first programme features Ferdausi Rahman singing folk songs of Bangladesh
10.00 A Week in Politics — Second Reading. Includes the employment secretary Michael Howard on the amount of training the government pays for
10.45 Dennis. Cartoon adventures with the mischievous Dennis.
11.00 Kickstarters. Following the attempts of 12-year-old East Ender Philip Garland to join the Imps motorcycle display team (r)
11.30 Star Test. Pop star Kim Appleby faces some probing questions
12.00 The Waltons 1.00 Voyage To the Bottom of the Sea (b/w)
2.00 Film: Jesse James (1939). Romanticised biopic of the Missouri outlaw with Tyrone Power in the title role and Henry Fonda as his brother Frank. Directed by Henry King
4.00 Hang Up/Curriculum Vitae. Two animated tales from Czechoslovakia
4.30 A Hundred Acres. A look at wildlife in a small area of the British countryside over six consecutive months from winter to summer. (Teletext)
5.00 Scottish Eye: Fish Eye View.
● CHOICE: With the help of striking underwater photography this film imagines what a Scottish salmon might see as it leaves the clean waters of the river Tay and ventures out into the North Sea. For a start it would see raw sewage piped untreated from cities such as Aberdeen and Arbroath. It would come across toxic waste from chemical plants, industrial effluent from the oil platforms and blood and fat from an abattoir that makes the sea boil red. It is less likely to see the bottle nosed dolphin, which pollution is driving away. It may see little sign of Scotland's fishermen, whose catches have dropped by up to 80 per cent. This environmental nightmare is not only witnessed by the eye of the salmon. There is a human response as well, given by a marine biologist, a diver and bathers on an Aberdeen beach. There is even a chap from the water authority, trying to explain why Aberdeen cannot treat its sewage
5.30 Karsplatt Continuing the off-beat look at the world of comics
5.45 Grim Tales. Rik Mayall with the story of *The Boots of Buffalo Leather*
6.00 Press Gang. Series following the trials and tribulations of a group of young people running their own newspaper (r)
6.30 The Wonder Years. Emmy award-winning comedy about what it was like to be an adolescent in the Sixties
7.00 Channel Four News. Includes an investigation into how the latest American arms technology has found its way to Iraq. Weather
8.00 Orchestral: Dudley Moore and Georg Solti continue their entertaining introduction to the orchestra by looking at how the percussion came into its own during the 20th century
8.30 The New Age explores the holistic approach to health care
9.00 The Media Show examines the sexual revolution taking place in the Soviet Union



Opposites unite in crime: Nicolas Cage, Holly Hunter (9.45pm)

9.45 Film: Raising Arizona (1987). This fast-paced film continues the season of American comedies. Nicolas Cage, playing an ex-convict, and Holly Hunter, his policewoman wife, head the cast in the story of a couple who are unable to have children of their own and kidnap one of the quintuplets of tycoon Nathan Arizona (Trey Wilson). The freshness of the writing and the cleverly depicted *seediness of the lives of the central characters helps to make this a* hectic and enjoyable farce. Also stars John Goodman. Directed by Joel Coen
11.40 Hello Do You Hear Us? A look at issues affecting people in the Soviet Union. Includes an examination of Afghan war veterans and how they often feel alienated from the rest of their society (r)
12.40am Film: The Reckoning (1969). A potent drama starring Nicol Williamson as a ruthless businessman who learns that his father is dying and returns to the Liverpool working class Irish community in which he was brought up. He discovers that his father's heart attack was brought on by his involvement in a pub brawl and is determined to settle the score. A good supporting cast includes Rachel Roberts, Paul Rogers and Zena Walker. Written by John McGrath and directed by Jack Gold, the team responsible for a previous film, *The Bofors Gun*. Ends at 2.40

REGIONAL VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Farming Diary 2.00 Members Only 2.25-2.55 This World or Gobi 5.05-6.00 Highway to Heaven 11.35 The New Avengers 12.35am Soap 1.05 Cinema Attractions 1.35 Film: A Strange Affair 3.30 Transmission 4.30-5.00 Pick of the Week.

BORDER
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 2.00-2.55 Mastermind 5.00-6.00 Scotsport 11.35 Prisoner Cell Block H 12.30am *Quiz Night 1.00 I Spy 2.00 Stand Up* 2.30 Film: Madness of the Heart 4.10-5.00 The ITV Chart Show.

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 5.05 Bullseye 5.35-6.00 The A-Team 11.35 Prisoner Cell Block H 12.30am Santa Barbara 1.20 Comics — The Ninth Art 1.55 The ITV Chart Show 3.00 The Story of Steam 3.50 Profile 4.00-5.00 Jobs.

GRANADA
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Close to the Edge 1 2.00-2.55 Richmond Hill 5.05 Bullseye 5.35-6.20 Coronation Street 11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.30 Quiz Night 1.00 I Spy 2.00 Stand Up 2.30 Film: Madness of the Heart 4.10-5.00 The ITV Chart Show.

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 West Country Farming 2.00 HTV Newsweek 2.30-2.55 Here Comes the Double Decker 5.05-6.00 Highway to Heaven 11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.30am The ITV Chart Show 1.25 Festivals of the World 2.25 The US Pro Surfing Tour 3.25 The Hit Man and Her 4.20-5.00 Jobfinder.

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 12.30pm-12.55 Jimmy's 2.00-2.30 West Country Farming.

TSW
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Farming News 2.00-2.55 Coronation Street 5.05 The Pages Files 5.35-6.00 Taxi 11.35 In the Heat of the Night 12.30am Quiz Night 1.00 I Spy 2.00 Stand Up 2.30 Film: Madness of the Heart 4.15-5.00 The ITV Chart Show.

TVS
As London except: 12.30pm TVS News followed by Agenda 2.00 Kate and Dog 2.25-2.55 Biz Tips 5.05-6.00 The A-Team 11.30 The Human Factor 12.00 The New Avengers 1.00 The ITV Chart Show 2.00 *Music Box Special 2.30 The Twilight Zone* 3.00 Books by my Bedside 3.30 Pick of the Week 4.00-5.00 The Hit Man and Her.

TYNE TEES
As London except: 2.25pm-1.00 Jack Thompson Down Under 2.00 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 2.25-2.55 The Back Page 5.05 Bullseye 5.35-6.30 Coronation Street 11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.30 Quiz Night 1.00 I Spy 2.00 Stand Up 2.30 Film: Madness of the Heart 4.10-5.00 The ITV Chart Show.

ULSTER
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 2.00-2.55 Short Story Theatre 5.05 Bullseye 5.35-6.30 Coronation Street 11.35 Gaelic Football: Down v Dublin 12.30 Quiz Night 1.00 I Spy 2.00 Stand Up 2.30 Film: Madness of the Heart 4.15-5.00 The ITV Chart Show.

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.25pm Goals on Sunday 12.50-1.00 Calendar News 2.00-2.55 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams 5.05-6.00 Head Time on Planet Earth 11.35 Scrumdown: Doncaster v Widnes 12.35 Hooperman 1.05 Pick of the Week 1.25 The Twilight Zone 2.05 The ITV Chart Show 3.05 A Choice of Two 4.05 Some Call It Jazz 4.35-5.00 Jobfinder.

S4C
Starts: 6.00am Early Morning 9.25 Dolnoc-copos 9.30 Closed at 11am 10.00 A Week in Politics 10.45 Land of the Giants 11.45 Kerplotsil 12.00 The Waltons 12.55 Now You're Talking 1.20 O Brookes 1.30 Barry Mason 2.00 Equinox 3.00 Cutting Edge 4.00 Film: Hollywood or Bust 5.45 Dancing in the Nineties 6.35 Grim Tales 6.40 Sam Stanton 7.00 Newyddion 7.15 Hapus Dyds 7.45 Heat Season 8.15 Dechau Canu, Dechau Canno! 8.45 Mwy Na Phapur Newydd 9.30 Scott Stages 11.00 The Media Show 11.40 Gurus 12.40 Film: The Reckoning 2.45 Diwedd.

RTE 1
Starts: 10.26am Topics in the History of Mathematics 10.50 Discovering Portuguese 11.15 Service 12.00 France Actuelle 12.25 Russian Language and People 12.50 Market Place 1.20 Little House on the Prairie 2.10 News followed by Bookmark 2.45 Film: Two Years Before The Mast 4.30 Darrell Cartoon 4.40 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 5.30 Exploring the Celtic Lands 6.00 Angelus 6.01 Six One. Sunday 6.30 Scoil Amach An Bosaiin 7.00 The Cosgy Show 7.30 School Around the Corner 8.00 Where in the World 8.30 Glenroe 9.00 News 9.20 Sandy 10.15 Henry's People 10.45 Some Lie and Some Die 11.40 News 11.45 Close.

NETWORK 2
Starts: 8.48am Sesame Street 10.45 The Chitty Kids 11.05 Ulysses 31 11.30 The Beatbox 1.30 Head to Toe 2.00 Festival Douce Blir Agus 3.45 The Magic Roundabout 4.00 Right and Half 5.55 Nuacht 7.00 Far City 7.55 News 8.00 Dennis O'Neill 9.00 Film 5 Card Stud 10.55 Sports Special 11.45 Close.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am Bailey's Bro 8.30 Barnes Real 7 00 Fun Factory 11.00 Eight Is Enough 12.00 That's Incredible 1.00pm Wonder Woman 2.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling 3.00 The Man from Atlantis 4.00 The Love Boat 5.00 Small Wonder 5.30 Sky Star Search 6.30 The Simpsons 7 00 21 Jump Street 8.00 The Crocel List 10.00 Falcon Crest 11.00 Entertainment Tonight 12.00 Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS
● Via the Astra satellite.
● The following schedule may be subject to alteration.
News on the hour.
5.30am Target 6.30 The Reporters 9.30 International Business Report Week 10.30 Those Were the Days 11.30 The Lords 12.30pm Target 1.30 The Reporters 2.00 Our World 3.30 The Lords 4.30 Target 5.00 *Live at Five 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 Those* Were the Days 8.30 Target 10.30 Those Were the Days 11.30 The Reporters 12.30am Our World 1.30 Target 2.30 International Business Report Week 3.30 Target 4.30 Beyond 2000

SKY NEWS
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
● The following schedule may be subject to alteration.
News on the hour.
5.30am Target 6.30 The Reporters 9.30 International Business Report Week 10.30 Those Were the Days 11.30 The Lords 12.30pm Target 1.30 The Reporters 2.00 Each The Colmetech Years 3.30 The Lords 4.00 The Story of Fashion, Part Two 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 Opera: Rossini Duoce Bill 10.30 Concert: Bruckner's 8th Symphony 11.30 The Reporters 12.30am Our World 1.30 Target 2.30 International Business Report Week 3.30 Target 4.30 Beyond 2000

SKY MOVIES
● Via the Astra satellite.
5.00am Showcase
8.00 Deporcerines (1987): Musical comedy about three orderlies involved in an unsuccessful murder plot
10.00 Caddyshack 2 (1988): Comedy about rivalry at a golf club
12.00 The Ox-Bow Incident (1943): Two drifters (Henry Fonda and Harry Morgan) get involved with a gang out for vengeance
2.00am Codename Emerald (1985): Second world war spy thriller starring Ed Harris
4.00 Burning Secret (1988): An amoral baron demands a rich woman's son in post-first world war Austria. Starring Faye Dunaway and Klaus Maria Brandauer
6.00 What Price Victory? (1988): Drama set against the backdrop of American college football
7.40 Projector
8.00 From the Hip (1987): Judd Nelson stars as an unconventional defence lawyer
10.00 The Case of the Hillside Strangers (1988): Richard Crenna leads the hunt for a brutal serial killer
11.35 Lady Beware (1987): A window dresser's displays attract unwanted attention. Starring Diane Lane
1.20am Heartbreak Hotel (1988): The Wolfe children attempt to rewire their hospitalised mother by kidnapping Elvis Presley
3.00 Blood Diner (1987): A religious sect murders young virgins
4.25 Heart (1987). A down-and-out boxer makes a comeback. Ends at 5.55

EUROSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Hour of Power 7 00 Fun Factory 8.00 Trans World Sport 9 00 European Cup Basketball 10.00 Sunday Axle Nordic Skiing World Championships Alpine World Championships Skiing Nordic Skiing World Championships World Cup Skiing Bobsleigh World Championships: Freestyle Skiing World Cup Skiing highlights 5.30pm International Motorsport 6.30 Indoor Speedway 7 30 World Cup Today 8.30 Football Documentary 9.30 Nordic Skiing World Championships 10.00 Bobsleigh World Championships 10.30 World Championship Speedskating 11.30 Six-Day Bike Race

SCREENSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Open Sports Sport 8 15 Pro Ski Tour Season 9.00 Ice Skating Challenge of the Champs 10.00 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 12.00 Stop-USWA Wrestling: The Main Event 1.00pm Powersports 2.00 Pro Box 4.00 Motor Sport Success: Daytona 6.00 Sportsworld of Champions 6.30 NBA Basketball 9.00 Boxing: Sugar Ray Leonard v Terry Norris 9.30 Weekend Live Golf 11.00 Ten Pin Bowling 12.45am Sport on France

MTV
● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE
● Via the Astra satellite.
12.00 Johnny Rango 12.30pm The Bill Dana Show 1.00 *The Joan Rivers Show* 1.50 He Shoots! He Scores 2.45 Spain Spain International Cuisine 3.00 World Class Championship Wrestling 4.00 Rocky Jones 4.25 Afternoon Cinema. The Bird of Paradise 6.00 The Sale-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 Close 10.00 The Sale-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
12.40pm Comanche Station (1960). A white woman is captured by Indians
2.00 Cowboy (1957): A hotel clerk gains experience as a cowboy. Starring Glenn Ford and Jack Lemmon
3.45 The Black Stallion (1979): When a shipwrecked boy and his horse are rescued they find it hard to adjust to life in New York
6.00 The Secret of My Success (1987): Michael J. Fox rises up the corporate ladder
8.00 Amazon Women on the Moon (1987): Expensive spoof of American late night television programming
10.00 Do the Right Thing (1989): Racial tension mounts when the owner of an Italian pizza parlour refuses to make certain changes. Starring Spike Lee
12.00 Let's Get Harry (1986): A man attempts to rescue his brother from Colombian guerrillas
1.45am Red-Headed Stranger (1987): A preacher (Willie Nelson) takes the law into Montana. Ends at 3.35

THE SPORTS CHANNEL
● Via the Marcopolo Satellite.
10.30am Football Scotland v USSR 11 30 ATP Tennis 1 30pm Italian Football 4.00 Boxing 5 15 Supercross 6 15 Welsh Rugby League 8 15 ATP Tennis 10 15 Scottish Football Magazine 11 15 ATP Tennis

THE POWER STATION
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
8.00am Twenty hours of rock and pop

RADIO

6.55am Weather
7.00 Morning Concert: Griffes (The Pleasure Dome of Kubla Khan: Boston SO); Delius (Brigg Fair: RPO)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Barber (Knoxville, Summer of 1915: City of London Sinfonia); Albéniz (Mallorca, Op 202: Julian Bream, guitar); Bernstein (Symphonic Dances, West Side Story: Los Angeles PO)
8.30 News
8.35 Music from the Dresden Court: The second of six programmes. J.D. Heinichen (Concerto in F: New Bach Collegium Musicum, Leipzig); C.F. Abel (Sonata in C, Op 6 No 1: Nancy Hadden, flute, Andrew Lawrence-King, harp); Pisendel (Violin Concerto in D: Jaap Schroder; Concerto Amsterdam)
9.15 Isaac Stern and Friends: The second of six programmes. Saint-Saens (Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso: Philadelphia Orchestra); Brahms (Piano Quartet in G minor, Op 25); Sarasate (Zigeunerweisen: Warner Brothers SO)
10.15 Music Weekly
11.00 From the Proms 1990: BBC Chorus and SO under Lorin Zagrosek performs Haydn (The Creation)
12.40pm Replay: From the BBC sound archives, Lady Astor's memories of being the first woman MP. First broadcast in 1937
1.00 News
1.05 Your Concert Choice, with Paul Gurney. Mercadante (Flute Concerto in D: ECO under Claudio Scimone); Fauré (Romances sans paroles, Op 17: Pascal Rogé, piano); Bridge (Cello Sonata: Raphael Wallfisch, with Peter Wallfisch, piano); Maconchy (String Quartet No 13: Messy Quartet); Ireland (These Things Shall Be: London Symphony Chorus and SO under Hickox)
2.30 Pascal Roge: The pianist plays Fauré (Nocturnes: in E flat minor, in B and in A flat, Op 33 Nos 1-3; in E flat, Op 36; Barcarolles: in A minor, Op 26; in A flat, Op 44); Poulenc (Soirees de Nazelles)
3.35 Bournemouth SO under Janos Fürst performs Mehler (Symphony No 7) (r)
5.00 Soundings: Michael Oliver chairs a discussion on the nature and function of music criticism
6.00 Girt about of Eternal Stuff: Tom Fleming presents an exploration of Scotland's spirituality and its contribution to church music down the centuries
7.00 Having It Both Ways: Academy of Ancient Music performs Henry Purcell (Incidental music; The Double Dealer)
7.15 Critics' Choice: Breaking the Silence
● CHOICE: We do not know which critics chose Stephen Poliakoff's play about a rich Jewish family brought low in post-revolution Russia. Presumably they were among the many who wrote glowing notices in 1984 when the RSC first presented it. In Richard Wortley's radio production, Edward Petherbridge plays the autocratic husband and self-deluding inventor forced to share with his wife (Francesca Annis), son (Richard Pearce) and faithful servant (Lesley Sharp) the railway carriage that represents the full extent of their new, shrunken, world. Even on radio, the claustrophobic character of this strong play is not lost
9.30 Elliott Carter Festival: London Sinfonietta under Oliver Knussen performs the first of two concerts given earlier this evening at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. Knussen (Coursing, Op 17: Songlines — world premiere); Carter (Oboe Concerto: Gareth Hulse, oboe; Con legerezza pensoso — UK premiere); Canon for Four, Homage to William); Stravinsky (Movements: Paul Crossley, piano); Carter (Double Concerto: John Constable, harpsichord, Ian Brown, piano)
10.50 Early Music in York: The tenor Nigel Rogers, with Jakob Lindberg on lute, theorbo and guitar, persorm airs by, among others, Guedron, Moulinie and Lambert. 11.30 A reading from a letter describing Parisian life of the period, written by the 18th-century traveller Tobias Smollett 11.35 Part 2
12.00 News 12.05am Close

RADIO

● FM: Most scheduled programmes will be suspended to give news of the Gulf war. The following schedule, on MW and LW, is subject to alteration:

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing: Weather 6.10 Prelude 6.30 News; Morning Has Broken, with Marjorie Lofthouse 6.55 Weather
7.00 News 7.10 Sunday Papers 7.15 On Your Farm: Henrietta Green meets Maynard Davies, a bacon curer from Shropshire 7.40 Sunday, Incl 7.55 Weather
8.00 News 8.10 Sunday Papers 8.50 Canon Colin Semper appeals on behalf of the National Family Conciliation Council 8.55 Weather
9.00 News 9.10 Sunday Papers
9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke (r)
9.30 Morning Service from Canberra, Australia
10.15 The Archers: Omnibus edition
11.15 News Stand: Andrew Rawnsley reviews the periodicals
11.30 Pick of the Week, with Margaret Howard (r)
12.15pm Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway is Paddy Ashdown, MP, leader of the Social and Liberal Democrats 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World This Weekend, with Nick Clarke 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time: A postbag edition, chaired by Clay Jones. Dr Stefan Buczacki, Fred Downham and Sue Phillips solve listeners' gardening problems.
2.30 Taking Heads: A Chip in the Sugar. The first of six monologues by Alan Bennett. Who is more dependent on whom — the elderly woman or her middle-aged son?
3.05 The Casner and the Reluctant Lions: Jan Ziliacus, daughter of the silent film-maker Larry Trimble, remembers working with her father and a menagerie of animals (r)
3.30 The Radio Programme (new series): Laurie Taylor examines the arguments for the privatisation of Radio 1
4.00 News; Analysis, with Peter Hennessy (r)
4.47 Time for Verse: Carol Ann Duffy visits the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival
5.00 News; Down Your Way: Jessica Cairo builds houses in the United States and is an ambassador's wife in Britain. She visits Uppark, an "18th century time capsule", owned by the National Trust, to assess its rebuilding after it was destroyed by fire in 1989
5.40 Beaten Tracks: Roadside Opinions. Roger Worsley explores the second of four ancient highways (r) 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 News
6.15 Feedback (r)
6.30 The Art of Travel: The final programme in which Annette Kobak invites seasoned nomads to reflect on their travels. 6: Norman Lewis and Indo-China
7.00 The Root of the Matter: Key issues from the perspective of the people involved
7.30 Bookshelf, with Nigel Forde (r)
8.00 The Radio 4 Debates (new series): The Police Debate. The motion discussed at the Metropolitan Police Training Establishment in Hendon is: "The British public cannot have confidence in our present system of policing"
9.00 Enquire Within, with Dilly Barlow (r)
9.15 The Natural History Programme, with Jessica Horn (r) 9.58 Weather
10.00 News
10.15 That Reminds Me: In the last programme of the series, the soprano Elisabeth Soderstrom chooses music with royal associations
11.00 In Commmee: The work of Parliament's select committees
11.30 Seeds of Faith: Not a Problem. The Rev Roger Grainger reflects on the universal human experience of suffering
11.45 Before the Ending of the Day: *The late evening office of* Compline
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8 Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

RADIO 1 FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Jenny Costello 7 00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 9.30 Dave Lee Travis 12.30pm Pick of the Pops: Top 20 of 1969, 1972 and 1981 2.30 Philip Schofield 4.30 The Complete UK Top 40 7.00 Anne Nightingale's Request Show 9.00 Andy Kershaw 11.00-2.00am John Peel

RADIO 2 FM Stereo 4.00am David Allan 8.00 Graham Knight 7 30 Don Maclean says Good Morning Sunday 9.05 Richard Baker with Melodies for You 11.00 Desmond Carrington Radio 2 All-Time Greats 2.00pm Benny Green 3.00 Alan Dell with Sounds Easy 4.00 Pam Court Time 4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00 Cherie Chester: Sunday Soapbox 7 00 Mona's Music: Mona Anderson introduces songs and melodies 8.00 Victor Silvester Orchestra (r) 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith with Your Hundred Best Tunes 10.00 Radio 2 Arts Programme: La Stupenda. Sheridan Morley talks to Dame Joan Sutherland 12.00am Encore 1.00-4.00 Andrew Lane with Night Ride

RADIO 3 6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Reports 7.00 News and 24 hours 7.30 Sunday Edition, incl 7 30 News 8.00 News; Sport 8.30 News 9.00 Sport 9.02 This Family Business, incl 10.00 Sport 10.30 Education Matters (r) 11 00 Lean Sharks. The world of the dealer moneylender 11.30 Labour of Love (r) 12.00 Sport 12.02pm Open University: Open Forum 12.22 Encounter — The Peace League 1.00 Sport 1 03 State and Society 1.22 Poetry 1 41 A Technological Animal 2.00 Sport 2.03 As Radio 2 3.00 Sunday Soon Extra: Football — Commentary on the first leg of the first semi-final of the Rumbelows Cup 5.00 Sport 5.00 Soon 6 10 Bob Holman Reflects 6.20 Euphonix (r) 7 20 Open University: Culture and Belief in Europe 1450-1600 7 40 The Enlightenment 8.00 The New Curiosity Shop: Poison 8.20 Education Bulletin 8 40 The Enlightenment 8.50 Nightfall 9.30 Across the Line incl 10.00 Sport 11 05 World Service: World Report 11.20 Stereo Glass 11.50 They Made Our World 12.00-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE All times in GMT 5.00am German Features 5.39 News in German, headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 London Voices 6.58 Weather 7 00 World News 7 15 24 Hours 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8 15 Music for a While with Richard Baker 9.00 World News 9 15 Sailing the Canvas: the odessey 9.30 Financial Report 9.40 Book Cho

Terrorist unit smuggled in for Downing Street attack

By Stewart Tendler and Richard Ford

SCOTLAND Yard detectives hunting the IRA unit which mortared Downing Street from a van are hoping specialist metal suppliers used for material to make the mortar could provide them with important information on the terrorists.

More than 150 members of the public have come forward with possible information about the van bought for £750 in south London by three men who answered an advertisement. Yesterday the Yard also asked for information from steel stockholders who might have provided sheets of heavy gauge metal, small box sections, tubes, discs and angle girders.

Police are particularly interested in hearing from firms which specialise in "profile cutting" metal from tubing. They may have been asked to make steel discs used for making the mortars.

The Ford Transit van, being examined by the Yard's forensic science laboratory, may yield clues. Evidence including fingerprints could also come from one of the mortar bombs.

The Yard's anti-terrorist branch believes the mortar was built in a workshop or lock-up garage and then driven out ready for the attack on Thursday. A highly specialised unit including an experienced amateur engineer and several terrorists with considerable skill in mortar attacks may have been smuggled into Britain for the strike.

The unit could have been at work on the long-term project using smuggled armaments or materials from arms dumps while other terrorist units carried on the mainland campaign last year.

The IRA's command considered the risk of losing key personnel worthwhile to launch an attack which won them worldwide publicity. They may have decided to strike to emphasise their fighting ability at a time when the security forces in Northern Ireland claim the IRA is ailing and a ceasefire is imminent.

Fund-raisers and arms procurers can point to the attack as evidence of the IRA's abilities. No other terrorist organisation in the world has got as close to the heart of an opposing government.

Tightly organised and more secure than ever before, the active service units in Britain have proved highly effective, with more than 20 attacks, including 15 deaths. They have forced police to intensify security and now prompted yet another security review. Yesterday as officials and security advisers began the review Scotland Yard in a statement reassured the public "the Metropolitan police will continue to give as much protection and security against terrorism as is possible which may result in some inconvenience to the public".

At the same time Merlyn Rees, a former Labour home secretary and Northern Ireland secretary, urged the adoption of the controlled zone system used in Northern Ireland where there is a total ban in sensitive areas on any parking and no car can be left unattended.

He said that there could further mortar attacks by the Provisional IRA. "We will have some more of these. They may only have one team in this country but look what they achieved. They did not have to kill anybody."

He denied that fresh parking controls would be taken as a surrender to the terrorists. "I believe that in Whitehall you have to have severe restrictions on the parking of cars because God knows what they maybe carrying."

In No 10, the shattered windows of the cabinet room have been boarded up and the inside wooden shutters closed. Officials expect the room to be ready for use for next week's cabinet meeting and most of the rooms affected by the explosion are usable.

☐ An army technician was called to deal yesterday with an IRA mortar bomb, of the type launched against Downing Street, in Crossmaglen, south Armagh.

At Londonderry Crown Court, judgment was reserved in the case against two Derry men accused of possessing six primed mortar bombs and launchers in October 1989. They are Roy McCool, aged 25, of Templegrove, and James Joseph Doherty, aged 21, of Donegal, arrested near an abandoned van containing the mortars.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 10

JAMES GRAY



Bomb aftermath: curtains hanging loose from the shattered windows of No 10 Downing Street after the IRA mortar attack

Brooke keeps talking

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

PETER Brooke is to hold more talks with Northern Ireland's political parties in an further effort to find a formula that would allow negotiations on an internal administration in the province to start.

The Northern Ireland secretary will also have consultations with the Republic's government despite its opposition to a draft plan aimed at getting talks underway within weeks.

Although Mr Brooke is pessimistic he does not believe his initiative has yet failed, though the parties involved are now positioning themselves to try to ensure they receive none of the blame in the event of a final breakdown.

Unionists had expected him to be able to announce that talks could begin in early February but last week the Irish government objected to a formula designed to overcome difficulties over the timing of its involvement.

Gerry Collins, the Republic's foreign minister, has expressed fears that Mr Brooke's formula would give the Unionist parties a veto on when Dublin could be brought into the process.

Legal ruling threat to Gorbachev

From Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

JOINT army-police patrols in Soviet cities are, in stricly legal terms, unconstitutional, the Constitutional Compliance Committee is expected to rule in preliminary findings next week, according to sources close to the committee, the Soviet Union's top constitutional arbiter.

The committee has been considering the introduction of the joint patrols at the request of the parliament of the Russian Federation. Its decision, if confirmed, would exacerbate the existing conflict between the federation and the central authorities and leave President Gorbachev, who belatedly approved the patrols in a decree, in an even weaker position than he is.

Joint patrols were introduced at the beginning of this month in what was said to be an attempt to cut rising street crime. Liberal politicians, however, believe they are intended to discourage demonstrations and civil disorder.

A majority of members of the committee say that the introduction of joint patrols should be initiated only by republican and local authorities. There is no provision for patrols to be "imposed" from above.

Most members also believe that a situation which is deemed to require the use of the army on city streets is close enough to a "state of emergency" to warrant compliance with the law on emergencies. This stipulates that troop deployments must be approved by the parliament of the republic concerned or, if the republic objects, by a two-thirds majority of the Soviet parliament.

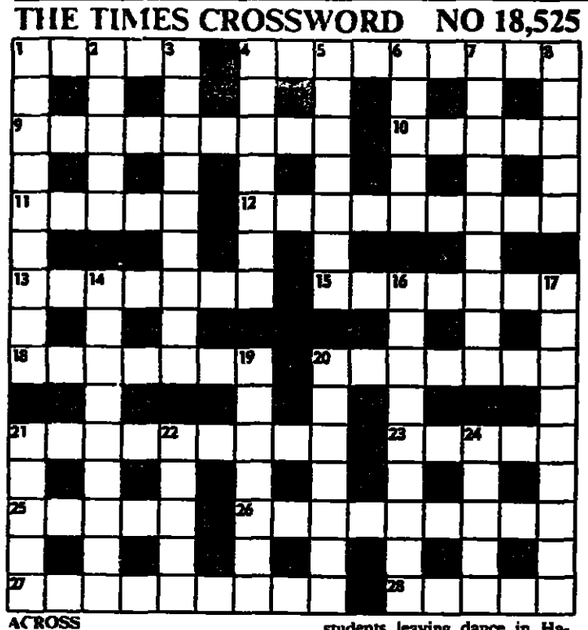
A majority also believes that the rights and obligations of the troops are insufficiently well defined, since the military are subordinate to their superior officers and to standing orders which are not published.

In an apparent attempt to counter adverse publicity for the patrols, the commander of the Moscow garrison and the head of the city police department responsible for public order denied at a press conference yesterday that there were any plans to use armoured personnel-carriers or tanks on the streets of the capital.

Asked what they would do if the patrols were found to be unconstitutional, however, they were adamant: "The patrols have the full approval of the working class," they said.

Ecology fears, page 8

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,525



ACROSS

1 One commanding the military lines – a venomous type (5).
4 Bellicose shout striker let out about railway (6-3).
9 Unreasonable as the Italian soldier in the pub (9).
10 Conscious of a king being held in reverential fear (5).
11 Edict issued from our land as leader of Empire (5).
12 Thoroughly searchd anarchist carrying an oblong bag (9).
13 Dull murmuring sound made by labor perhaps (7).
15 Female Berber law officer (7).
18 Poison briefly injected in 11 (7).
20 With which the riot squad rushes around the state? (4-3).
21 Eccentric note from swindler at 23 (4-5)
23 Systematic arrangement of facts for the board (5).
25 Queue for the cheap seats around the Hollywood area (5).
26 An idiosyncrasy of fictional men in Mars (9).
27 Clarify voting system in Bury and in Boulogne? (9).
28 Evidence acceptable in one less than a knave (5).

DOWN

1 Dog elegant but mailless, set on students leaving dance in Hawaii (9).
2 Tree producing a lot of ointment (5).
3 Ale or gin sling finally taken as a strengthener (5-4).
4 Coarse linen stuff – under a dollar (7).
5 Stories, including New Testament parable concerning these (7).
6 Woolly type of novice priest(9).
7 Excellent cover for a pound of pork (9).
8 Relinquish income from investment (5).
14 Villain intended to take in oddly insecure characters (9).
16 Medical speciality includes operation on men – it's the law (9).
17 If upset, American general becomes a catcher in the deep (9).
19 A person attractive to snakes? (7).
20 The principal problem in making a decorative bow (7).
21 About twenty-four days in the Bay of Naples? (5).
22 Deity, for instance, seen around tree-top and river (5).
24 Loyal person foolishly dropped (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,519

P	E	A	R	L		R	O	U	N	D
E		M		I		U		N		U
T	R	A	P	P	I	N	G	S		T
A		S		A		O		C		M
I	S	S	U	E		Y	O	U	C	H
F			A		E		N			I
I	N	V	A	D	E	R		D	I	C
E		E				E		&		S
D	E	S	I	R	E	E		C	A	L
		C		A		M		E		

E	D		U	P		O		O		E
T	O		E			T		G		N
O						I		O		N
						N				
E										
O										
O										
O										

Solution to Puzzle No 18,524

Q	U	A	G	G	A		T	O	Y	L
U		M		A		A		I		U
I	R	O	N	I	N	G		N	O	S
C		R		N		A		N		H
K	N	O	T	G	A	R	D	E	M	
L		U		A		R		S		T
I	N	S	M	O	R	E		S	T	O
M			U		X		E		U	
E	X	I	S	T	I	N	G		T	E
		A		O		R		A		V
T	E	X	T		H	O	U	S	E	P
N		I		R		V		O		M
A	E	C	L	U	S	E		P	R	O
O		A		S		R		S		N
B	O	W	H	I	T	E		L	E	G

PARKER DUOFOLD

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....

.....

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

KEESHOND
a. A Dutch barge dog
b. A glutton for cheese
c. Chilblained fingers

CURTILAGE
a. A frock coat
b. House and policies
c. Taciturnity

BUNYIP
a. A sort of doughnut
b. An Aboriginal monster
c. A heavy metal dance

UVAROVITE
a. A grape vaite
b. An Orthodox seminarian
c. A green garnet

Answers on page 13

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc's,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Border's	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: A J F Doulton, Field Cottage, Beadon Lane, Salcombe, Devon; J Lord, Sawyers Close, Minery, Malmesbury, Wiltshire; R Trickett, Russett Road, Malton, North Yorkshire; A Murtock, Elmbank Terrace, Aberdeen; R G Pearce, Basorne House, Basorne, St Just, Cornwall;

Concise crossword, page 13

WEATHER

Eastern areas of England and Scotland will be mostly cloudy with snow showers. Western England, Wales and western Scotland will be brighter, with scattered snow showers. Northern Ireland should have bright spells but also snow showers, mostly in eastern parts. Outlook: cold with snow showers becoming less widespread and some inland areas becoming dry.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder, d=drizzle, fg=fog, s=sun; sl=sleet, sn=snow, h=hail, c=cloud, r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	9	48	f	Madrid	8	46	c
Alicante	17	63	s	Majorca	14	57	f
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Malaga	15	59	f
Algiers	16	61	f	Malta	17	63	s
Amst'dm	-5	23	sn	Mexico C*	15	59	f
Athens	13	55	f	Miami*	27	81	f
Barcelna	13	55	s	Milan	0	32	c
Belgrade	2	36	c	Montreal*	1	34	c
Berlin	-6	21	sn	Moscow	-6	21	sn
Bermuda*	22	72	f	Munich	3	27	s
Biarritz	5	41	r	Naples	14	57	c
Borde'x	2	36	r	N Delhi	22	72	s
Brussels	6	21	sn	N York*	4	39	r
Budapst	2	28	sn	Nice	5	41	c
B Aires*	30	86	s	Oslo	8	18	c
Cairo	17	63	s	Paris	5	23	s
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Prague	3	27	c
C'blanca	15	59	c	Reykjvik	4	39	f
Cologne	4	25	c	Rhodes	14	57	s
C'phgn	-3	27	sn	Rio de J	29	84	s
Corfu	12	54	r	Rome	13	55	f
Dublin	2	36	c	Salzburg	1	34	s
Dubrovnik	9	48	s	S Franco*	12	54	s
Faro	13	55	s	Santiago*	31	88	s
Florence	4	39	f	S Paulo*	23	73	c
Frankfurt	-4	25	sn	Seoul	3	37	s
Funchal	16	61	c	St'holm	-4	25	sn
Geneva	-2	28	f	Strasb'rg	-1	30	f
Gibraltar	15	59	s	Sydney	-	-	-
Helsinki	0	18	f	Tangier	14	57	f
Innsbruck	3	37	s	Tenerife	19	66	f
Istanbul	6	43	f	Tokyo	5	46	s
Jo'burg*	27	81	f	Toronto*	3	37	c
L Palmas	20	68	s	Tunis	16	61	f
La Toquet	-6	21	f	Valencia	12	54	s
Lisbon	13	55	f	Vanc'ver*	7	46	r
Locarno	0	32	c	Venice	0	32	c
L Angels*	16	59	s	Vienna	-3	27	sn
Luxembg	1	18	c	Warsaw	-5	23	c
Luxor	21	70	s	Wash'ton*	11	52	c
				Zurich	-4	25	sn

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.9	02	3	37	snow
Anglesey	2.0	-	1	34	snow
Belfast	2.0	05	2	36	snow
Birmingham	-	08	3	37	snow
Blackpool	1.4	-	1	34	snow
Bognor Regis	1.1	01	5	41	snow
Bournemouth	1.4	02	2	36	snow
Brighton	1.7	-	5	41	bright
Bristol	1.0	-	3	37	snow
Buxton	-	07	3	37	snow
Cardiff	1.2	01	4	39	snow
Clacton	-	20	4	39	snow
Douglas	0.3	-	1	34	snow
Edinburgh	1.0	09	2	36	snow
Eskdalemuir	0.1	06	1	34	snow
Exmouth	3.9	-	4	39	snow
Falmouth	9.1	-	9	48	sunny
Folkestone	-	04	5	41	snow
Guernsey	0.2	15	3	37	snow
Hastings	0.2	06	5	41	snow
Hunstanton	-	01	0	32	snow
Jersey	4.4	02	4	39	snow
Kinloss	3.8	-	2	36	snow
Lerwick	3.3	01	2	36	snow
Littlehampton	1.7	07	5	41	snow
Lowestoft	-	07	3	37	snow
Mildenhall	0.9	-	3	37	snow
Morecambe	0.5	-	1	34	snow
Newquay	-	11	6	43	bright
Nottingham	-	-	3	37	snow
Penzance	6.9	-	9	48	sunny
Plymouth	4.8	-	9	48	sunny
Poole	1.4	-	2	36	snow
Scarborough	-	20	3	37	snow
Scilly Isles	5.4	-	11	52	sunny
Shanklin	0.7	-	5	41	snow
Southend	-	08	4	39	snow
Southsea	0.4	-	4	39	cloudy
St Ives	6.1	-	11	52	sunny
Stornoway	4.9	-	3	37	hail
Teignmouth	1.5	-	3	37	bright
Tenby	1.7	-	3	37	cloudy
Torquay	1.5	-	5	41	snow
Weymouth	2.6	-	3	37	snow
Wick	2.7	03	3	37	snow
Worthing	1.3	-	4	39	snow

These are Thursday's figures

HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9.14	5.5	9.42	5.5
Aberdeen	9.21	3.2	10.12	3.2
Avonmouth	1.57	9.1	2.44	9.1
Belfast	6.55	2.8	7.28	2.8
Cardiff	1.42	8.6	2.29	8.6
Devonport	12.23	4.3	12.54	4.2
Dover	6.52	4.9	7.42	4.8
Falmouth			12.24	4.0
Glasgow	8.9	3.7	8.16	3.6
Harwich	7.12	2.9	7.48	2.9
Holyhead	6.22	4.2	7.17	4.1
Hull	1.30	5.5	2.5	5.6
Ilfracombe	1.14	6.4	1.59	6.3
King's Lynn	1.48	4.4	2.25	4.5
Leith	10.31	4.2	11.21	4.3
Liverpool	6.55	6.9	7.45	6.8
Lowestoft	5.18	2.0	5.50	2.0
Margate	7.44	3.7	8.15	3.7
Milford Haven	1.34	4.9	2.23	4.8
Newquay	12.34	5.0	1.22	4.9
Oban	2.6	2.9	2.47	2.8
Penzance			12.10	4.2
Portland	12.35	1.3	1.29	1.2
Portsmouth	7.11	3.7	7.51	3.6
Shoreham	6.37	4.5	7.38	4.5
Southampton	6.32	3.5	7.35	3.5
Swansea	1.35	8.9	2.12	8.8
Tees	11.40	4.0		
Whitby	7.13	3.1	7.55	3.1

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.28ft.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday c. cloud; f. fair; r. rain, s. sun

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	2	36	f	Guernsey	-3	27	f
B'mingham	2	28	sn	Inverness	1	34	c
Blackpool	1	34	f	Jersey	0	32	s
Bristol	1	30	c	London	2	28	sn
Cardiff	2	28	sn	M'chester	0	32	c
Edinburgh	1	34	sn	Newcastle	0	32	sn
Glasgow	1	34	sn	R'nsdway	3	37	sn

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times BST/GMT

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 5.04 pm to 7.25 am
Bristol 5.14 pm to 7.34 am
Edinburgh 5.08 pm to 7.50 am
Manchester 5.06 pm to 7.39 am
Penzance 5.29 pm to 7.43 am

LONDON

Thursday: Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, -3C (27F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -7C (19F). Humidity: 6 pm, 91 per cent. Rain 24hr to 6 pm, unavailable. Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, Nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,011.1 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp Barbecute, Outer Hebrides, 4C (39F), lowest day max Sandown, Isle of Wight, Brighton, and Hastings, -5C (23F); highest rainfall: Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 0.20 in, highest sunshine, Penzance, Cornwall, 6.9 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, 0C (32F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -1C (30F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.063 in. Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, Nil.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, 2C (36F), min 6 pm to 6 am, -1C (30F) Rain 24hr to 6 pm, 0.15 ins. Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, Nil.

Standard meteorological practice for the measurement of snowfall is to record it as rainfall equivalent. This practice is followed in the information above.

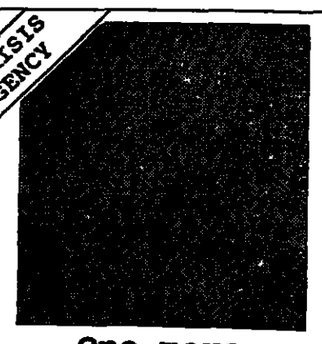
TODAY	Sun rises:	Sun sets:	TOMORROW	Sun rises:	Sun sets:
	7.27 am	5.4 pm		7.25 am	5.6 pm
	Moon rises: 4.28 am	Moon sets 11.33 am		Moon rises: 5.16 am	Moon sets: 12.30 pm

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Information supplied by Met Office

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Or charge my Access/Visa card number:

Expiry date: /

Signature:

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Address:

Postcode:

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Reg. charity no. 272786

هكذا من الأصل

SPORT

SUMMARY

Potential net gain



MILES Mclagan (above) took his first steps towards what he and British tennis hopes will be a successful professional career this week in the LTA Challenger event at Telford. While a second-round defeat may not seem the stuff of which future champions are made, Andrew Longmore feels that Mclagan's talent warrants particular nuturing if another great British tennis hope is not to go the way of many others..... Page 24

FOOTBALL

Full Speed

A PLACE at Wembley is the prize for Manchester United and Leeds United when they meet in the first leg of the Rumbelows Cup semi-final at Old Trafford tomorrow. For Gary Speed, the match is just part of an exciting season with the rejuvenated Yorkshire club, as Clive White discovers..... Page 25

CRICKET

Ashes view

THE sight of England's fastest bowler lying flat on his back on the Test match pitch at Perth last week was the final ignominy of the Ashes series for Jack Bailey, who delivers his view of a disappointing tour..... Page 24

RACING

Positive move

THE Jockey Club has made the first move towards avoiding a recurrence of the 17-month Aliysa affair. Trainers will have only 31 days to carry out confirmatory tests on post-race samples from a horse tested positive by the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory..... Page 26

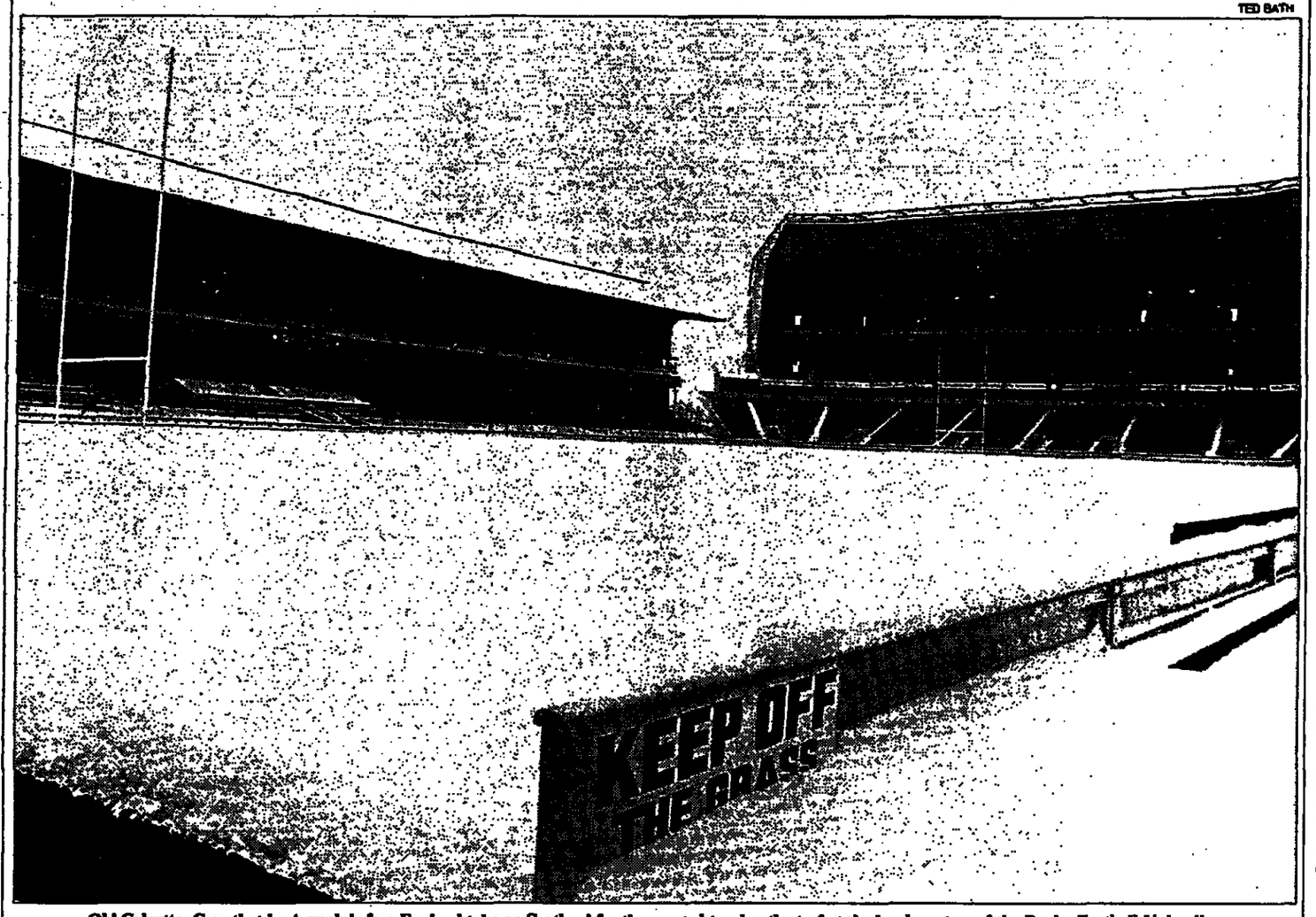
SKIING

Snow queen



CHANTAL Bournissen (above), who has twice finished in the top three in World Cup events this season, finally took the honours in a women's downhill race at Garmisch-Partenkirchen yesterday. But the men were left watching and waiting for the action to start at Val d'Isère..... Page 26

Lull before the Twickenham storm



TED BATH

Oh! Calcutta: Cup, that is. A week before England take on Scotland for the coveted trophy, the turf at the headquarters of the Rugby Football Union lies buried beneath a foot or so of snow, rendering the billboard just a mite superfluous. If the match goes on, temperatures are guaranteed to rise next Saturday

London agrees on Games bid

By JOHN GOODBODY

LONDON, at last, and at the last gasp, has a united bid to stage the Olympic Games in 2000. With only eight hours remaining to the extended deadline set by the British Olympic Association (BOA), the two rival groups agreed on a joint board and immediately announced it would be challenging Manchester for the United Kingdom's nomination.

So ends the political in-fighting which threatened to ruin the capital's bopes of staging the first Olympic Games in Britain since 1948. Now the board of the London Olympic 2000 Campaign has to persuade the BOA that it has a viable bid to beat Manchester for the British nomination in the voting in April and then win the International Olympic Committee (IOC) election in September 1993 against rival cities like Beijing, Milan, Berlin, Sydney and Istanbul.

The new board is made up of six people – three from each of the rival groups. London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, and the London Council for Sport and Recreation (LCSR), on which are representatives from the 33 boroughs and also sport in the capital.

The board consists of: Coe, who will be president, with the role of leading the campaign to win the votes of the BOA, and, after April, of the members of the IOC; Ron Emes, the chairman of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) which represents the national governing bodies; David Teasdale, Coe's business associate; Fred Smallbone, Olympic rowing silver medal-winner and chairman of the LCSR, and two of his vice-chairmen, Richard Sumray, who represents the local authority members of the LCSR and, John Lelliott, the head of the construction company.

The board stressed that it would appoint a chairman, "with the right credentials", when one becomes available. It is looking for someone with the right commercial experience and financial expertise to oversee the raising of £1 billion, which may be needed if the Games are to be held in Britain.

One key breakthrough in negotiations, which have been going on since September when Manchester failed to get the nomination to stage the 1996 Games, was for Coe to become president rather than chairman.

Teasdale said: "Despite various reports, Seb has not wanted to fulfil a full-time role. What we have always been concerned about has been for him to have the leading role in getting the votes both here and abroad."

Coe, in fact, missed the meeting because he was on his way to Albertville as a member of the IOC medical commission and Teasdale said he would already be telling the IOC members about London's concerted determination to stage the 2000 Games.

The other breakthrough was the decision on Thursday of Peter Lawson, the secretary of the CCPR, to sacrifice his involvement with the London bid in order to ensure a coherent campaign. It is still not exactly clear why there was such exception to Lawson, who was co-founder with Coe of London Olympic 2000.

Sir Arthur Gold, the chairman of the BOA, yesterday "utterly refuted" any suggestion that there was opposition from any of its officers to Lawson's presence in the foreground of the bid. "Indeed, we have been at considerable pains to distance ourselves from all of the parties rather than be accused of identifying with the London in any shape or form," he said.

Smallbone said: "There was tremendous common interest in getting the Games for London. We were not that far apart, despite the contrary appearance in the media."

He said that the two groups had tackled staging the Games from different avenues. "Those two avenues have come together at the crossroads today."

The board will now appoint a council of 20 to 25 people, who have been its supporters and then, after hopefully getting the nomination in April will set up four committees: local government, technical business, public relations and marketing.

But first it must defeat Manchester and yesterday, Rick Parry, the director of the north-west bid, said: "We magnanimously agreed to the extension of the deadline. The point what everyone is going to make of it all I don't know. However we wanted a fair fight and we have got it."

Sumray said: "We will begin our campaign on Monday." Teasdale interrupted to say: "No it begins now."



United front: four members of the new London Olympic 2000 Campaign – (from left) Fred Smallbone, David Teardale, Richard Sumray and John Lelliott – celebrate together yesterday

Arsenal among the casualties

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE GHOST of winter 1963 has returned to disrupt the sporting programme weekend February 9, 27 years ago, represented the worst recorded Saturday for postponed football matches when just seven fixtures took place in England and the Scottish programme was wiped out.

Today threatens to break that record. South of Hadrian's Wall only five English League matches are scheduled to go ahead, while 11 are poised to start in Scotland.

Even undersoil heating at Arsenal failed to save their match against Nottingham Forest, as the Highbury terraces were caked in sheet ice. Ken Friar, the Arsenal secretary, said: "The pitch is playable, but the support services cannot cope.

"We cannot sit people in seats because of a foot of snow, all the toilets are frozen, and even the salt has frozen. There are no staff here because they cannot get to the ground."

The Sunderland home match with Wimbledon survives, but Denis Smith the Roker manager last night booked his squad into a local hotel. "A lot of them live in outlying areas like Durham and I did not want to find some of them snowed in," he said.

Racing endures a third successive blank day, and the prospects are remote for a resumption before Thursday. All-weather racing is scheduled for each day next week but Lingfield and Southwell will again be at the mercy of conditions on the access roads.

Bookmakers William Hill have tried to provoke some betting interest in the freeze. Punters can get 12-1 against forecasting the correct number of meetings held between Monday and the end of the month.

The sole surviving rugby union fixture is the Vale of Lune match with Hartlepool, but even that is subject to a pitch inspection this morning, not to mention the problems facing Hartlepool in traversing the Pennines.

The national women's indoor hockey championships, scheduled for today at Crystal Palace, have been postponed, while in athletics cross country trials for the world championships, at Basingstoke, have been put back.

The weather even affected the Scotlands indoor bowlers yesterday when they found themselves snowed in at Glasgow airport en route to the Channel Islands.

It was too cold to proceed with the British skating championships at Deeside and Cardiff. The irony was greater in Val D'Isère, France, where snow and poor visibility prompted the cancellation yesterday of a men's World Cup skiing race, the first international event on the downhill site.

The cricketing maidens are snow joke

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

Mankind cannot bear very much reality, and all this white stuff is far too real for me. Let us think instead of summer, green stuff, and the gold stuff that comes in glasses – all of which brings me to Danish women. I learn the staggering fact that a dozen clubs in the Danish cricket association have female teams on their strength: a percentage that, were it repeated over here, would alter the entire nature of English cricket.

Of course, women have a place in English cricket: normally that place is pretty close to the tea urn. There is also the possibility of landing that most ghastly of jobs, as scorer. But as Peter Hargreaves, a great booster for Danish cricket, so rightly says, such delights as these were, even in the 1960s "obviously not enough in a country where women were used to dealing out sentences from court benches, preaching from pulpits and above all, smoking cigars".

Now he writes of a new cricketing section opening in the Ringparken sports organisation. It has no fewer than 45 female players, most of them aged 17 to 20. They are anxious to take a touring party of 16 to England in late June to an English cricket-playing boarding school – a female one, I presume. They offer return hospitality the following year. The chill of winter seems to recede at the sound of this adventure.

A horse called Gazza

Gazza story of the week: yes, someone has called a racehorse Gazza. Not a bad horse, apparently, and it will soon be making its debut in National Hunt bumper races with an eye to a future over hurdles, perhaps moving on to chasing. Under a Jockey Club ruling, permission must be given if a horse is called after a living (or recently dead) person. Gazza said yes, so long as a quarter of any prize-money goes to a charity for teenaged cancer victims.

Fears for the future

Sometimes I wonder if rugby union will survive as a big-time sport. Keen rugger chaps will know that we recently had a touring party of Australian schoolboys in England. The official verdict on the side was crash-hot, perhaps even better than the 1977 schoolboy side that included the three Ella brothers. The star of the unbeaten side was the splendidly named centre and captain, Craig Polla-Mounter, who scored the winning try in the final match of the tour at Twickenham on February 24. On February 2, he was back in Australia and signing for Canterbury rugby league club, and four days later, he was playing for the side – the Bulldogs, if I may be so familiar.

"It's a great coup to sign a player of his status," the club's chief executive, Peter Moore, said. Polla-Mounter, aged just 18, and renowned for size, speed and power, will also study physiotherapy for the next three years.

Another refugee to rugby league: Darren Clarke won the 400 metres gold medal for Australia at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland a year ago. He has just joined Balmain, and it took him two minutes to score his first try in rugby league when he turned out against Newcastle Western Suburbs – from ten yards inside his own half. Is rugby league to become the repository of all the world's sporting talents, I wonder?

● *This column is happy to present a job opportunity for the right sort of racing person. The Racing Calendar is carrying an ad for a job training horses in Abu Dhabi. Excellent tax-free salary. Quite irresistible. I would have thought. They should get hundreds of applicants: racing people seldom read the boring stuff without horses that you apparently find in the front bits of newspapers.*

Turning the corner

Brits are always trying to spice up their speech with little foreign morsels: a soupcon of frog adds a certain *je ne sais quoi* to one's conversation. But the French, being funny about that sort of thing, are always trying to legislate the English out.

The latest list from the Commissariat for the French language outlaws such terms as corner, manager and coach. I have always thought CORNER, pronounced with two gutteral Rs, to be an excellent word, but the French now insist on tir d'angle, along with manageur and entraineur. Rugby games will no longer be dominated by a pack, but a paquet. Alain Prost will no longer win pole position but position de tête. The passing shots of Henri Lecoute become tirs passants, and a break point is now a balle de brèche. A tie-breaker is a jeu decisif.

It is hard to know what that renowned Anglophile, Madame Swann, would make of all this. She would no doubt draw comfrot from the fact that there is one English world for which there is no French equivalent. Vive le sport.

Pain in the neck

Here is something Mike Gatting never thought of: a Venezuelan baseball manager has just been fined for his frenzied attempt to bite an umpire in the neck. The incident took place in a match between the Cardenales de Lara and the Leones del Caracas – the Lara Cardinals and the Caracas Lions if you prefer.

Domingo Carrasequel, of the Cardinals, was upset when a Lion called Jesus Alfaro was given out in a match they needed to win to become champions. He approached the umpire, Emilio Velázquez, protesting furiously, jumped upon him, sezed his neck and prepared to sink his teeth in.

The Lions dragged him off, and went on to win 4-3. The league president, Rafael Marcial Garmendia, said: "We fined Carrasequel so that baseball rules and good sporting behaviour in Venezuela be maintained."

UNFORTUNATELY, THE PEOPLE WHO BUY IMITATION TIMBERLAND BOOTS DON'T GET IMITATION FROSTBITE.



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Tennis potential that must not be squandered



COMMENT

ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

Remember Stephen Warboys, Stanley Matthews Jr or Graham Stilwell? No? Not *surprising*, really. They were names on a long list of Great British Wimbledon Champions Who Never Made It. There is another list: Great British Wimbledon Champions Who Nearly Made It: Buster Mottram, John Lloyd, Jeremy Bates.

With a little luck and a lot of support, Miles Maclagan, who put his first foot on the rung of the professional ladder this week, will not appear on either list. But he might *join another one*: Talented British Players Who Made The Most Of What They Had. The list is pretty short because, as few will need reminding and for reasons I will not go into here, British tennis players are world champion under-achievers.

Much of that has to do with the system, which encourages mediocrity, much with the mental fragility of the players themselves. Somewhere between the junior and senior ranks, British players forget how to win.

Maclagan has no such problems. At least at the moment. Faced with the prospect of his first win on the ATP tour, in a $25,000 challenger event in Telford, he did not tremble at the knees. Having taken the first set and broken early in the second, he broke again to love to win 6-3, 6-2. His opponent, Xavier Daufresne, is hardly a household name, not even in his native Belgium, but he is ranked 344th in the world, and the fact that Maclagan made the giant leap from *juniors to seniors so* comfortably on his first outing was confirmation of his potential and an important pointer to his future.

His 12-month plan, devised by Derek Bone, his head coach at the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Rover School at Bisham Abbey, has already been put on fast-forward.

Maclagan, British 16 and Under grass-court and hard-court champion, should not be shouldered with the burden of having to win Wimbledon. For a start, his favourite surface is clay. But he has all the right attributes to be a top 50 player, even top 30, if he is given the right support.

He is a good, strong athlete. He wants to do nothing other than play professional tennis. He is mature beyond his 16 years, quiet but with a nice temper, if provoked. Above all, he has the priceless advantage over his fellows at Bisham Abbey of being brought up in Zimbabwe. He therefore has self-confidence, aggression, and a real loathing for defeat, three qualities which are essential for survival in the bear-pit of men's professional tennis, and three which mark him out from many of his elders. He also has a good first service and a strong forehand, strengths around which many very decent players have built their game.

So, *what happens next? On past* form, Maclagan will disappear into the obscurity of a British national squad, only to surface briefly at Wimbledon once every few years to remind everyone of his potential. That must not happen.

The temptation will be to tuck him up in a cosy squad of fellow juniors – and there are some other good ones, Andrew Richardson and James Baily, for example – and send them out as a group under one coach. In my opinion, that would be a mistake.

While it would be nice for him to have some friendly faces around him when he goes out into the big wide world, quite apart from some ready-made hitting partners, Maclagan, if I read him *right, is not* one who needs such comforts. Tennis is a selfish and single-minded profession, and the squad system can foster laziness just as easily as competitiveness.

Far better for the LTA to dig *deep into its considerable* pocket and hire a top-class international coach to work with Maclagan alone over the next two years. Teach him self-discipline, hard work and all the unglamorous virtues which make up a top-class tennis player. *It might cost as* much as £100,000 a year, but there have already been some tentative offers of sponsorship and, if the policy worked and the monkey of failure was shaken off the LTA's back, it would surely be money well spent.

The LTA is aware of the position, but it has always tended to be cautious about financing one coach for one player, partly, I think, because of a fear of being wrong, partly because the policy cuts across the "sport for all" mentality of the LTA. Only recently has the association, under its head of junior development, Richard Lewis, espoused the cause of elitism. Now it has a chance of following it to a logical conclusion, it should take it.

As Lewis points out, one of the problems is to find the right coach for the player. "It's like arranging a marriage. However much you pay, it doesn't always work," he says. But neither *that nor the natural, rather* British, reluctance to throw Maclagan into the deep end at the tender age of 16 should stop them from doing it.

Chang won the French Open at 17; Sampras the US Open at 19. Time is tight. As soon as Maclagan has finished his GCSEs in May, he should be out on the road with a coach, learning the business.

If his schoolwork allows, he should also be selected for Britain's Davis Cup squad for the tie against Poland in early May. Twelve months ago, Danny Sapsford made his Davis Cup debut on clay in Romania. He did well. Maclagan lost narrowly to Sapsford at the national championships in November and would fancy his chances of beating him on clay. It would certainly do him no harm to be part of the squad.

Of course, Maclagan might not be the player I, and many others, think he could be. But only by giving him the chance to work on his own with a top-class coach will the full depth of Maclagan's potential, whatever it is, be reached. Besides, there is precious little in British tennis to shout about at the moment. Miles Maclagan? Yes, I remember him.

CRICKET

England's defeat is delayed by Crawley

From a CORRESPONDENT
IN NAPIER

DESPITE a fine innings of 94 by their captain, John Crawley, England lost their first Under-19 Test against New Zealand by nine wickets here yesterday.

Crawley, who was 77 not out overnight, and Aftab Habib had worn down the edge of the home attack in a partnership worth 66 runs. The introduction of the leg-spinner, Stead, and slow left-armer, Hart, turned the game back in New Zealand's favour. Stead took the wickets of Habib, Crawley, Butcher and Lowrey, who batted patiently for his 19.

A late stand of 33 between Shaw and Chapple – who for the second time in the match batted with mature composure – made certain that New Zealand would have to bat again. They gained the 23 they needed to win after the removal of Blackmore, first ball by Weston.

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings 144.

Second Innings	
T A Radford c sub b Furlong	17
R J Warren c Furlong b Wilson	0
*J P Crawley lbw b Stead	94
S F Smith c Nash b Furlong	21
Aftab Habib c Fleming b Stead	15
M A Butcher c Astle b Stead	3
M J Lowrey lbw b Stead	19
W P C Weston c Fleming b Hart	8
A D Shaw c Howell b Furlong	20
G Chapple c Astle b Brown	15
M Broadhurst not out	1
Extras (b 9, lb 3, nb 1)	13
Total	232

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-43, 3-83, 4-159, 5-182, 6-178, 7-185, 8-180, 9-223.
BOWLING: Wilson 28-11-60-1, Brown 18-3-48-1, Nash 11-1-35-0; Furlong 12.4-5-14-3, Astle 4-2-2-0; Stead 28-12-47-4; Hart 8-2-14-1.

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19: First Innings 354 for 9 dec (L Howell 100, G Stead 53).

Second Innings	
S Blackmore b Weston	0
M Hart not out	5
D Nash not out	17
Extras (b 1)	1
Total (1 wkt)	23

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0.
BOWLING: Weston 2.2-1-9-1, Broadhurst 2-0-13-0.

CRICKET

Morris's decision is given credence by Munton's late haul

From RICHARD STREETON IN KANDY, SRI LANKA

JUST when England A had cause to wonder whether they had done the right thing by asking Sri Lanka A to bat, the scales tilted in their favour in the first unofficial Test here yesterday. Tim Munton took four wickets with the new ball in the final hour, and at the close Sri Lanka were 226 for seven.

England will still have to bat last on a grassless pitch, which will almost certainly help the spin bowlers as it becomes worn. Batting during the next two days, however, should be easier than at any other time. Munton by no means bowled with ideal control earlier, but picked up three wickets in his final three overs to finish with England's best figures.

On a pitch that was still damp and had sweated overnight, Morris could hardly be criticised for asking Sri Lanka to bat first. Sadly for the England captain, both Pick and Munton failed to find the necessary direction to benefit from the wet surface.

As Sri Lanka buckled down to lay their foundation for a big total, the pitch dried rapidly and at no stage did it provide turn. Illingworth, however, bowled with good control. Sri Lanka seemed content to defend, and it was not until after tea that the run-rate exceeded two an over. The tempo then increased alarmingly before Munton made his late inroads.

Pick and Munton initially bowled too many balls which could be left alone, and Illingworth seldom had the best of fortune. Some of the *England appealing was also* distinctly optimistic.

Less than 72 hours earlier Newport had been playing in a Test match in Australia. He came on as first change and immediately settled into the right line, regularly moving the ball away late from the batsmen. Kuruppu had always looked sounder than his partner, but in Newport's fifth over he edged a catch behind.

Bulankulame and Dileepa Wickramasinghe, who both took guard on off stump, were unambitious, but had few problems as Sri Lanka reached 45 by lunch. The total was only 64 in the 41st over when Newport returned and had Bulankulame held at third slip off his glove from one that bounced more than most.

After tea Premasiri and Wickramasinghe pulled productively against some loose bowling, and the stand had added 100 in 30 overs before England had a stroke of luck, with Premasiri running himself out. He pushed a ball from Newport past the bowler and called for a hazardous single. Illingworth ran in from mid-on and managed to throw down the stumps as he fell.

England took the new ball as soon as it was available, with Sri Lanka 174 for three. In Munton's second over he bowled his best ball of the day. Of full length, it shattered Wickramasinghe's stumps as he tried to on drive.

Munton went on to have Jurangpathy caught at second slip, and next ball Gamini Wickramasinghe held by Rhodes down the leg side. Rajadurai was then caught at second slip from the day's last ball.

SRI LANKA A: First Innings

*D S B P Kuruppu c Rhodes b Newport	11
D Bulankulame c Thorpe b Newport	28
D Wickramasinghe b Munton	71
H Premasiri run out	58
B R Jurangpathy c Hussain b Munton	25
A de Silva not out	10
G Wickramasinghe c Rhodes b Munton	0
B E A Rajadurai c Hussain b Munton	1
Extras (lb 2, w 4, nb 18)	24
Total (7 wkts)	226

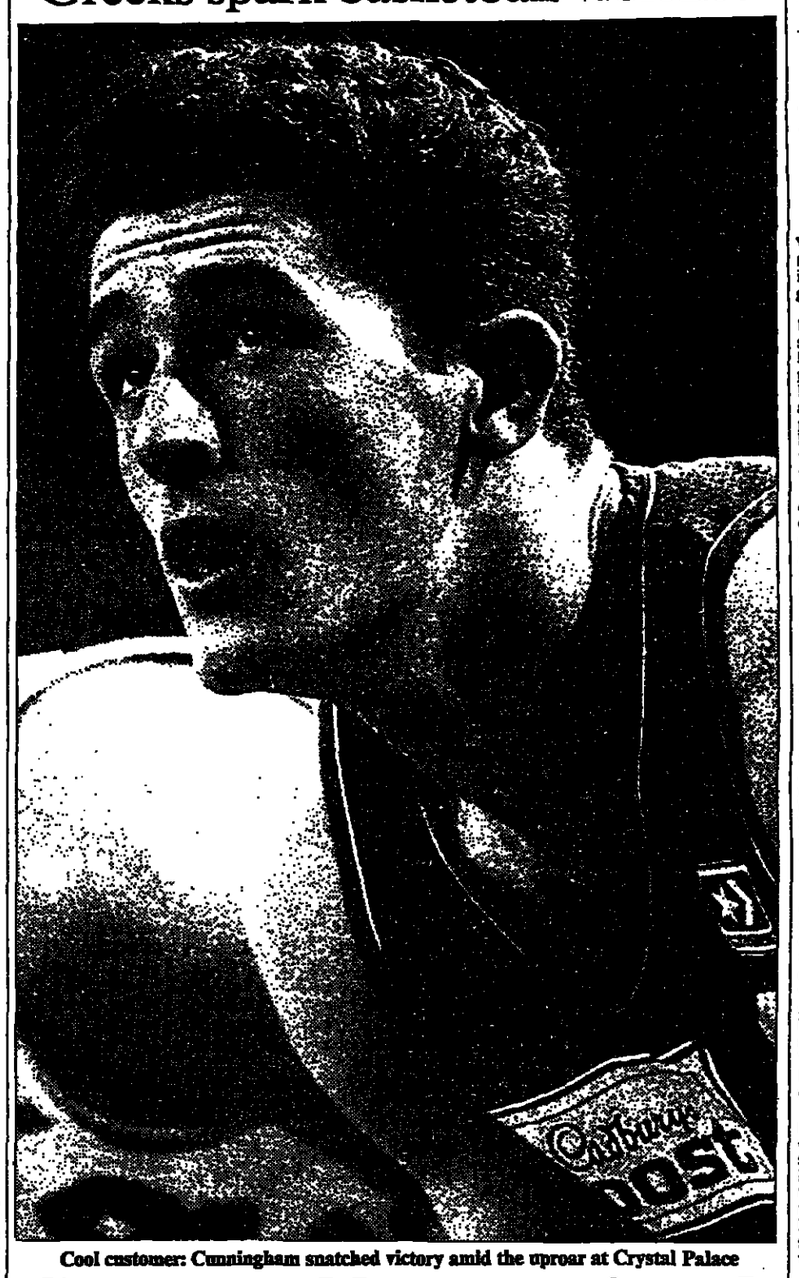
S D Anurasiri, F S Anengama and P Wickramasinghe to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-64, 3-164, 4-168, 5-216, 6-218, 7-226.
BOWLING: Pick 16-2-53-0; Munton 22-7-48-4; Newport 20-3-63-2; Illingworth 24-11-43-0, Ramprakash 8-1-17-0.

ENGLAND: *N Morris, D J Bicknell, M R Ramprakash, N H Fairbrother, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, †S J Rhodes, P J Newport, R K Illingworth, R A Pick, T A Munton.

Umpires: K T Francis and T M Samarasinghe.

Greeks spark basketball violence



Cool customer: Cunningham snatched victory amid the uproar at Crystal Palace

Crowd trouble mars triumph

By NICHOLAS HARLING

KINGSTON'S reluctance to make a protest is unlikely to prevent Fiba, the international basketball federation, enquiring about the worst crowd disturbance seen at a British game. It occurred at Crystal Palace on Thursday both during and after the English club's dramatic 97-96 victory over Aris Salonika in the European Champions' Cup.

When all the talk should have been about the amazing jump shot from Matthew Cunningham, aged 18, that won Kingston the game on the buzzer at the end of the second period of over-time: instead, there was alarm at the behaviour of the visiting team's supporters.

The large contingent of Greek followers threw coins at the Kingston players, in spite of warnings over the public address system, invaded the court after the big Yugoslav, Goran Sobin, had levelled the score at the end of normal time, and pursued some of the home supporters across the court after the game had ended.

With the small police contingent hopelessly inadequate, Kingston players had to come to the protection of their followers.

Kingston are not seeking to have the Greeks punished by the game's authorities. Cunningham's last-gasp winning shot has, in fact, spared Fiba a delicate piece of decision-making, for had Kingston not won, the game's governing body would have come under pressure to award the game to the Carlsberg League leaders. That in turn would have been met by uproar in Greece, where basketball is the national sport.

Mark Hannen, the English Basket Ball Association's competitions officer, said: "On behalf of Fiba and the home club, we will investigate very carefully what went on at Crystal Palace."

It is fortunate that Kingston have already played in Salonika – and lost – for a return game there, in the circumstances, would have been an ominous prospect. Mindful perhaps that *his club may have to go back* there in next season's competition, Kevin Cadle, the Kingston coach, said: "I wouldn't have protested even if we had lost. You know before you play Greek teams what to expect and you have to deal with it."

It still seems unfair to ask players like Lorenzo Duncan, the American, who was struck on the head by a coin, to expect such missiles to be hurled at him. He was able to quip afterwards: "It was definitely pound and not a drachma", but the consequences could have been more serious.

The fact that Matthew Cunningham managed to stay calm enough amid such scenes to launch a shot of such accuracy that it fell straight through the basket without touching the rim, said much for his composure. The geography and business studies sixth-form college student had only been on the court seven seconds when he accepted Alton Byrd's pass with a second left.

The victory that came after the hosts had lost a 19-point advantage at 66-47 to the Nick *Gallis-inspired Greeks revived* Kingston's hopes, albeit slim ones, of making the final four. The encouragement for Cadle is that his squad will not now have to pick themselves up as they did after their two-point home defeat by the holders, Pop '84 Split in December.

ATHLETICS

Runners in danger from a bed of nails

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHILE Britain shivered yesterday, Bud Baldaro, the national cross-country coach, was getting hot under the collar.

Why, he wondered, had the United Kingdom championships, scheduled for today, not been called off on Thursday to prevent athletes from travelling? More important, were the administrators serious about perhaps now staging the event less than one month before the world championships in Antwerp on March 24?

Despite assertions by senior officials the night before that the championships, which incorporate the British trials for Antwerp, would go ahead, they were called off yesterday morning, by which time Steve Binns, for one, was on his way from his Scottish home to the venue at Down Grange, Basingstoke. "It was the old Macho Harriers stance that you never cancel cross-country," Baldaro said.

Once it was obvious that a race comprising those who could get there would be not so much a British trial as a Hampshire championship, the macho masks came off. Now, beneath the blanket of snow is a bed of nails. There is no ideal alternative for deciding which athletes will do the best job for Britain in Antwerp.

Since we can probably rule out team selection without trials, the choice is between a new dare for Basingstoke or the one favoured by Baldaro: trials in conjunction with the English women's national championships at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, next Saturday. He does not think, however, that the Women's Cross Country and Road Running Association (WCCRRA) will comply.

"I do not think it would be popular for us to select because, over the years, *runners have not* shown early-season form and have come through later," Denton said. Baldaro has no argument there. "If it had happened last year, we could not have selected Adrian Passey and he won the trial," Baldaro said.

A trial on March 2 is unlikely because athletes who wish to honour club duty at the English national on February 23 would have only one week to recover.

"I feel we could go as late as March 9," David Denton, of the United Kingdom cross-country commission, said.

Baldaro disagrees on the grounds that athletes might need a bigger breather before Antwerp. Denton contends that the athletes should recover because Down Grange is flat.

Denton dismissed the notion of *trials subsumed* by the English national. "There is no way that would be countenanced," he said. But Baldaro has asked Les Jones, of the British Amateur Athletic Board, which has the final say on UK commission recommendations, to argue the case for trials in Birkenhead.

"Arrowe Park is a flat course which is almost representative of Antwerp," Baldaro said.

Diagnosing England's downfall

JACK BAILEY examines the reasons for England's failures on the tour of Australia

Perth

AUSTRALIA needed 120 runs to win the final Test match at Perth. Victory and the taking of the series by a 3-0 margin were all but a formality. Yet, with only an hour of a sunlit evening left, England were in a position to stage a show of defiance, an all-out attack which would give the Australians something to remember, and restore some vestige of pride.

As Devon Malcolm ran in to *deliver the first ball*, expectations had been buoyed by a gritty, undefeated 40 from Newport and by his last-wicket stand of 38 runs with Malcolm himself. The big fast bowler pounded up to the crease.

The familiar leap before the *delivery stride, the final placing* of the right foot prior to hurling the ball down at over 90mph suited the mood. Then the right foot lost its purchase, the huge body fell backwards as the foot slid disastrously forward and England's opening bowler lay *flat on his back*, the ball clutched firmly in his right hand. Never did an innings have a less menacing start; never was there a greater sense of anti-climax.

The laughter echoing round the Waca ground made you want to be somewhere else. It also symbolised, as did Malcolm's fall, the mocking regard in which certain aspects of England's cricket had come to be held. The England team, with few smooth interludes, had lurched from one misfortune to another. That Malcolm should have been the central figure was unjust, for nobody in the England camp had given more or striven harder.

It is now well known that England's captain does not feel that all his team have given a sufficient degree of commitment to the task of beating Australia. This was made plain by him as the series ended.

Although criticised by some for his unimaginative captaincy and his strong emphasis on team effort at the expense of the talented individual, Gooch has emerged from this tour with much credit. It took character as well as his undoubted skills as a player to come back from a serious injury and to instil, partly by his personal example, a degree of confidence into a team which had apparently lost that vital commodity.

At Sydney, with Gower at his incomparable best, and again at Adelaide, the England team – fielding apart – performed well enough to be able to look their *many followers straight in the* eye. But in the end, the burden which had weighed so heavily upon them from the start, could not be shrugged away.

There have been luckier teams, but however the blame for their shortcomings is apportioned, it is hard to escape the feeling that even before the tour began, this England party was so bobbled as to make it unlikely that they would rise above adversity. Matters would have needed to go much more smoothly for them to cope with some strange selectorial foibles and an unhelpful tour itinerary.

Even before that, there were those of us who doubted the wisdom of a management structure which gave so much power, on a contractual basis, to so few for so long. The closed-shop mentality that this has tended to engender may have been helpful when things were going well, but it has also totally hampered objective selection based on class of performance.

This seems likely to have resulted in the extraordinary events surrounding the virtual exclusion of Hugh Morris, an original selection for many, who was given no chance to establish himself when sent for as a replacement before being sent packing.

Opting for continuity, even applying to places as far apart in every way as Australia and Pakistan, has sometimes led to an approach which has in turn caused a tendency to shift responsibility for shortcomings *into areas outside the control of* England's management.

For instance, the structure of the first-class game in England has come in for frequent criticism at the hands of Micky Stewart, England's cricket manager. Yet if too much one-day cricket and not enough four-day cricket in the domestic season is to be held partly to blame for England's ills, is it not the more surprising that we did so poorly in the one-day series in Australia?

The trouble with seeking reasons for indifferent performances from outside one's own sphere of influence is that it can rub off on the players, leading subconsciously to ready excuses for below-par achievement, blaming "them" and not "us".

To the peripheral spectator, circumstances crying out for an "over-my-dead-body" approach, both in the batting of the middle order and in the field, met with little apparent ability to find it. The Australians, in every facet of the game, were determination personified. It was an essential difference between the teams.

None of this is to doubt the strength of commitment by those in charge of England's fortunes. Nevertheless, yet there must be many who would welcome a return to the days when the tour manager was appointed on a one-off basis with the peculiarities of the country to be visited in mind and bound only by the strict canons of the game in which he *had been a performer of* distinction.

With him, an assistant manager responsible for, but rarely pronouncing on, cricketing matters, a friend and guide to the players; and selectors more broadly-based and with peripheral vision.

SNOOKER

Hendry gunning for White

By STEVE ACTESON

ANOTHER pointer towards the destination of the world championship may be given today when the title holder, Stephen Hendry, and the best player who is yet to win it, Jimmy White, meet in the first semi-final of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley.

These two are the only players to have won the significant *titles this season. Hendry, seem*ingly unstoppable early in the season, was beaten by White in the finals of the world matchplay and the Mercantile Credit Classic, either side of Christmas, before also taking the World Masters crown, which swelled his bank balance by £343,000 in six weeks.

For the winner of the Masters tomorrow there is a cheque for £100,000 but no ranking points, but Hendry is aiming to win this event for a record third successive time.

White, aged 28 and six years older than Hendry, is an old hand at psychological warfare. He said: "It's nice to have another pop at Hendry but to *me it's just another game. If I* play my normal game I'll win."

White has adopted a no-risk policy in recent months in order to convert a consistent record of *near misses* and occasional disasters into a more satisfactory record as a consistent winner.

He abandoned this policy on Thursday against Steve James, however, and a series of more familiar cavalier blunders almost cost him dear as he let slip a 4-2 lead before winning the deciding ninth frame with a break of 67.

This was understandable, though, as he had arrived at Wembley only four minutes before the 7pm break-off time, having left his home at Wimbledon at 3.30pm.

Having been denied his customary half-hour knock-up before play, he said: "My head was in a jam jar and I just couldn't settle. I'm relieved to have won."

RESULT: Thursday's late result: Quarter-final: J White (Eng) bt S James (Eng), 6-4.

GOLF

Norman plans a four-month holiday

From MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
PORT DOUGLAS, QUEENSLAND

GREG Norman, competing here this weekend in the Mirage Skins tournament, has stressed his intention not to allow outside interests to dilute his desire to win several more major championships.

Norman increased speculation that he might cast his mind in other directions when he revealed that, in 1991, he would play fewer tournaments than he has in any one year since he became a professional in 1976 and that he would cut back still further next year.

He intends not to play golf for four months after the US PGA Championship in 1992 in order to take a tour-month holiday on his fishing boat.

Yet, questioned on the prospect of his following Jack Nicklaus into golf course design, Norman pointed out to *Australian Golf Digest* that it would be wrong to assume that, because of a commitment to several courses in his native country and two in the United States, he will become less motivated by playing.

"I am still a golfer and that is foremost," Norman said. "I have bought an interest in Cobra Golf, an equipment manufacturing company, and that is the perfect answer to my *retirement from competitive* golf in ten or 15 years. I hope to have a ranch, but I am not going to be the foreman.

"Cobra is an investment in a retirement plan that will give me continued interest in the game, but my priorities right now remain with winning golf tournaments."

Norman, of course, can give Nicklaus 16 years, but Nicklaus can give him in reply 17 major championships. It is a constant irritation to the Australian that his curriculum vitae includes only one major championship, the Open at Turnberry in 1986.

What Norman is hoping is that his reduced schedule will prove to be a winning recipe for *when he arrives at Augusta* National in April.

He dearly wants the Masters title. It must be all the more galling that contemporaries like Sandy Lyle, the winner in 1988, and Nick Faldo, champion in 1989 and 1990, have dominated the event in recent years.

His most pressing engagement, however, is here this weekend, when he competes against his compatriot, Ian Baker-Finch, Rodger Davis and Wayne *Grady on the Port* Douglas course.

More than 40 inches of rain have fallen over the last month, which has led to the probability of a composite course being taken from the Reef nine, which has views out to the Coral Sea, and the Mountain nine.

Elliott is out of world indoors event

PETER Elliott, the indoor world record holder at 1,500 metres, will not compete at the world indoor championships in Seville from March 8 to 10 (David Powell writes). Elliott, who has suffered ankle and back trouble in the last six weeks, said yesterday that he did not believe he could be ready in time.

Elliott had repeatedly said any decision to run in the world championships would be last-minute, but he was selected anyway by Britain last weekend. His decision leaves Britain without a representative in the men's 1,500 metres, at least, until further selections are made.

Snowfalls forced Elliott to do his training on a health club treadmill yesterday at a time when he was hoping to make up for some of his recent lost training. "The most important thing now is to concentrate on getting things right for the outdoor season," the Commonwealth champion, said.

His decision means that Linford Christie is the only British champion of Europe expected for the world indoors.

Elliott has also withdrawn from the IAAF Dairy Crest meeting at Cosford next Sunday.

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هكذا من الأصل

A gifted footballer hoping to come of age with a Wembley appearance

Speed playing a patient game

CLIVE WHITE

WHEN Terry Yorath, the Wales manager, declined to select Gary Speed as the replacement for Mark Hughes in Wednesday's international match against the Republic of Ireland, he was trying to protect what schoolboy football had done its damnedest to ruin: "One of the brightest midfield prospects that Wales has produced in 30 years," according to Yorath.

Strange how the world of professional football, with all its demands for instant success, is sometimes capable of displaying great patience in the development of youngsters. It is a wonder that Speed still has anything to develop after playing 106 times at under-11 level for his district schools side in South Wales, a British record.

Surprisingly, he never made the grade as a schoolboy international, kept out by a couple of Wrexham boys who are no longer in the game. A familiar story. But Speed has suddenly come of age as a footballer in his 21st year and tomorrow, weather permitting, he finds himself in opposition to Hughes when he plays for Leeds United against Manchester United in the televised first leg of their Rumbelows Cup semi-final.

A Wembley appearance, whether it be in the Rumbelows Cup or the FA Cup, would be an idyllic way for Speed to round off a memorable year. Twelve months ago he was not even established in the Leeds side. Now he is an integral part of a midfield quartet that many people consider to be the most finely tuned in British football.

In recognition of his emergence as a gifted left-sided player with a touch normally only associated with continentals, Yorath has awarded him four full caps, the last as a substitute in midweek. "It would have been quite easy to have played him from the start but I didn't want to do that," Yorath said. "He's having a lot of pressure games for Leeds at the moment. I'll bring him along nice and quietly and give him internationals when I think it's right. He handles pressure well, though."

It is, of course, in Yorath's interests, and those of Wales, that Speed is not rushed. One of the chief reasons Wales have not taken full advantage of the finishing powers of Hughes and Ian Rush over the years — not to mention, more recently, Dean Saunders — is that they have never had anyone in midfield capable of providing a quality service to the front men. That is, until now.

A central midfield position would give Speed, when he is ready, greater latitude to provide that service. Like Kevin Sheedy, of Everton, to whom Kevin Ratcliffe, the Wales captain, likens his young international colleague, Speed is capable of fulfilling both the wide and central positions. But at club level he is up against the likes of David Batty and Gary McAllister for the central role he prefers.

"He probably hasn't found his best position yet," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said. "He has this flexibility. He could even play at left back." When Lee Chapman and John Pearson, the substitute, were injured last week at White Hart Lane, Speed went up front and played on his own. "I quite fancied that. It was hard work, but I enjoyed it," he said.

"He has a lot of natural ability, good control, and is good in the air. A powerful boy," Wilkinson said. "He is playing for a side among the top four clubs in the country so it is important that he learns how to perform at the Palladium. He has everything to play for."

Yorath went even further. "He's probably got more than any midfield player I've known in my time," he said. "We were energetic, worked hard, had fundamental technique, but he's got far more than that. He can score goals, and his ability on the ground, passing-wise, is superb."

As for the comparison with Sheedy, it is virtually no contest as far as Yorath is concerned. "Speed's got more killer in him than Sheedy, heads the ball better, is quicker, and his left foot is just as good as Sheedy's. He can do most things. It's a pity he's too good-looking for his own good."

After such lavish praise, perhaps it is just as well that Speed is a quiet, modest young man off the pitch, if supremely confident on it. "I'm not half as quick as Lee Sharpe," he said, revealing that he struggled with his pace when he first went to Leeds. "And though I get into good scoring positions I don't seem to put them away as I should." Neither does he like watching himself on televison.

That pleasure will it is hoped be reserved for the rest of us, provided that the television crews can make it through the snowdrifts to Old Trafford. Speed could find himself, as he was last week, a member of a midfield quintet, instead of a quartet, as Leeds seek to contain United in what promises to be another finely balanced game between the two sides. They have already played two draws this season.

Chapman, who required plastic surgery after suffering horrific facial injuries in his fall at Tottenham, said that the surgeon who operated upon him told him that he should be fit enough to play. Leeds say that they would be guided by medical advice. If Chapman is unfit, Carl Shutt, who has recovered from a hamstring injury, will play in the lone role up front.

The reason for playing five in midfield could be to camouflage the loss of the effervescent Batty, who is suspended, as much as to stifle



Bright prospect: Speed has the potential to succeed with club and country

United. "He is important to us," Speed said. "He sets the whole mood." Mick Whitlow, Andy Williams and Glynn Snodin compete for the two vacancies in midfield.

United have also lost a significant individual in their own midfield, Neil Webb withdrawing because of a hamstring injury sustained last week against Liverpool. But with Paul Ince stepping up after recovering from injury, their rhythm should not be unduly affected. United have lost only one of their last 22 matches.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, may have had more than enough reason in the past 15 months to rue the decision to release Gordon Strachan to Leeds for a knock-down £300,000, but it is unlikely to prevent him from wishing the "wee man" happy returns. Strachan, who plays his hundredth consecutive match for Leeds, is 34 today.

YACHTING

Roaring Forties soon take their toll

By BARRY PICKTHALL

THE Roaring Forties have begun to live up to their reputation for the leading competitors in the BOC single-handed round the world race as they head down into the Southern Ocean during the third stage of the race from Sydney to Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Both Alain Gautier, the race leader, and his fourth-placed French rival, Philippe Jeantot, suffered knock-downs in the 65-knot winds overnight. Gautier, who has maintained a 25-mile lead over Christophe Augnin's Groupe Soeta, escaped unscathed, but Jeantot reported a "very bad knock-down" which left him with a torn mainsail and broken gooseneck linking the boom to the mast.

Another to report damage was the American, Jack Boye, sailing the class 2 entry, Project City Kids. The yacht also suffered a broken gooseneck, and Boye was hit on the head by the boom, experiencing some concussion.

Shortly before the accident, Boye was passed by Josh Hall, of Britain, close enough for the two skippers to wave and take pictures of each other. Hall's yacht, New Spirit of Ipswich, is now in third place in the class

LEADING POSITIONS (at 09.30 GMT yesterday, with miles to Punta del Este, Uruguay): Class 1: 1, General Concorde (A Gautier, Fr), 5,404; 2, Groupe Soeta (C Auguin, Fr), 5,431; 3, Allied Bank (J Martin, SA), 5,452; 4, Credit Agricole (P Jeantot, Fr), 5,479; 5, Jarkon (K Bartles, Aust), 5,490; 6, Innkeeper (D Adams, Aus), 5,504; 7, Duracell (M Plant, US), 5,530; 8, Grinaker (B Reed, SA), 5,524; 9, Alba Regia (N Fa, Hun), 5,536; 10, Ecureuil PC (J Autissier, Fr), 5,542; 11, BSV Expo 92 (J Ugarte, Sp), 5,551. Class 2: 1, Servan (Y Dupescuier, Fr), 5,563; 2, Somerup (D McIntyre, Aus), 5,833; 3, New Spirit of Ipswich (J Hall, GB), 5,851; 4, Project City Kids (J Boye, US), 5,886; 5, Balogo (H Roth, US), 6,393. Commelian class: 1, Volcano (P Thackaberry, US), 5,736; 2, Shusendoshi (M Saito, Japan), 5,778; 3, Gloss Exposure (R Davis, GB), 5,839.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Two clubs remain optimistic

By KEITH MACKLIN

UNDERSOIL heating could come to the rescue of two ties tomorrow after the weekend's Silk Cut Challenge Cup first-round programme was ravaged by the weather.

Leeds entertain Dewsbury at Headingley, and the heating system which has served Leeds well for three decades will be utilised to save the match. Snow-clearing equipment will also be used to clear the terraces and car park.

Manchester City football club is also optimistic of staging the tie between Swinton and St Helens at Maine Road. "There should be no problem unless there is an amazing deterioration in the weather," a club official said yesterday.

One victim of the weather is the top game of the round. Castleford had used tarpaulins and straw to protect the Wheldon Road pitch for the encounter with the holders, Wigan, but to no avail as further heavy snow fell.

RUGBY UNION

England selectors likely to retain a winning team

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AN AFTERNOON at home in mid-season is a rare event for national selectors, but at least those responsible for the Welsh and English teams will have that leisure today. The Welsh XV to play Ireland at Cardiff next Saturday is to be named tomorrow and England's side against Scotland at Twickenham the same day will probably emerge on Monday.

There is little virtue in prolonging the agony. The weather has wiped out the club league programme in both countries, which leaves Ron Waldron, the Welsh team manager, with no immediate form to alter his thinking; England, denied the chance to compare Mike Teague and John Hall in the postponed Gloucester v Bath match, will doubtless go for the side that beat Wales in Cardiff last month.

England had hoped to fit in a squad meeting tomorrow morning in London, but the Rugby Football Union decided it was a pointless and potentially dangerous exercise to try and bring together players from all parts of the country, even for indoor training. It will hope that, by Wednesday, the weather will have relented and normal training can resume for the Calcutta Cup match.

Nevertheless, the decision to call off next Wednesday's B international between England and Italy at Waterloo has already been taken. The women's international between England and Wales at Blundellsands tomorrow fell by the wayside late on Thursday night (it will now be played on March 24) and the RFU, aware that the Italians were scheduled to travel on Monday, took an early decision to rearrange the B international for March 27.

The Irish Rugby Football Union reversed that procedure, however, at the request of its players, who wanted to meet in Dublin tomorrow, particularly so that the new-look three-quarter line could gel.

Four of those backs must travel from snow-bound England, because they are members of London Irish, although two of them — Jim Staples and David Curtis — will not be entirely unhappy at the postponement of the second-division match with Newcastle Gosforth today since neither would wish an injury to disturb the prospect of making their international debuts.

The only remaining national division match surviving in England today is that at Vale of Lune, where there is a 9am pitch inspection to see if the game against West Hartlepool, the third-division leaders, can proceed. Whether West can cross the Pennines at that stage is open to doubt, but all other clubs must find alternative dates for their league games.

Some have already opted for February 23, which is Pilkington Cup quarter-finals day. Since Moseley were due to meet Northampton today and must meet in the cup in a fortnight's time, they have the option of making that match count towards the league too, though were they to do that, Moseley would concede ground advantage.

Meanwhile, the Welsh selectors ponder a change to their pack, amid a popular outcry, which has brought a sackful of letters to the *Western Mail* in Cardiff, that the Neath way is not appropriate to international rugby.

There are various gambles Waldron might consider: the return of Martyn Morris to the back row is one. However, the Neath flanker has not played for six weeks because of a suspension which ends today.

The tight forwards constitute Waldron's chief concern. The places of the entire front row may be in jeopardy, but those players under threat may suggest that scrums operate effectively as a unit — that is, with genuine thrust from the second row and support from the flankers.

After the game against Scotland, Waldron suggested that Phil Davies, of Llanelli, would merit consideration "when he was fit and playing good rugby again", which hints at the possibility that Waldron does not think that time has yet arrived.

● Andy Moore, the scrum half who scored Oxford's final try in the University match against Cambridge in December, is to move from Cardiff to play club rugby with Bridgend. Gary Hein, his American colleague at Oxford, has decided to join Richmond.

SA ruling bodies to restart talks

TALKS between the rival governing bodies of the South African game, broken off last month, are to resume after a meeting this week between Danie Craven, the president of the South African Rugby Board (SARB), and representatives of the African National Congress, ANC (David Hands writes).

The latest attempts by the government of F. W. de Klerk to break down the remaining apartheid statutes have made the South African authorities optimistic that their bid to stage the 1995 World Cup has become more realistic.

The SARB and the South African Rugby Union (SARU) must come together once more, particularly since Craven said that work for the creation of a single controlling body must make the start of the new season, only six weeks away, its deadline.

The meeting with the ANC at Stellenbosch, Craven's home town, adopted resolutions to be recommended to all rugby bodies and it is hoped that the ANC can mediate between the SARB and the SARU.

Although it is unlikely that any leading rugby country will visit South Africa this year, because of the imminence of the World Cup, Craven remains hopeful that New Zealand will tour next year.

Directors walk out on Stoke

THREE directors resigned yesterday from Stoke City in a bitter power struggle over a £500,000 share issue. The club's former vice-chairman, Ed Wheetman, Maurice Nield and Mike Loftus departed from the six-man board, claiming that the chairman, Peter Coates, was wielding too much power.

Coates said: "There is no turmoil at Stoke, just a difference of opinion."

● The Swindon Town player, Tony Galvin, is the club's new assistant manager. He succeeds Chic Bates, who has left for Birmingham City.

● ZURICH: The eight countries entered in the first stage of bidding for the 1998 World Cup finals shortly before yesterday's deadline, are England, Brazil, Chile, France, Switzerland, India, Morocco and Portugal. France are to build a 60,000-seater stadium at Melun-Senart, 30 miles from Paris.

● The Atlético Madrid president, Jesus Gil, has lost his appeal against his suspension from European football until next season, imposed for publicly calling the French referee, Michel Vautrot, a homosexual.

Liverpool intent on a revival

By IAN ROSS AND LOUISE TAYLOR

IF LIVERPOOL are to regain the leadership of the first division from Arsenal today, they must not only overcome the invariably robust challenge of their neighbours, Everton, but also the unfamiliar feeling of insecurity which has undermined much of their football since the turn of the year.

It is often said of Liverpool that they are never more dangerous than when cornered. Cruciam is used to reinflate the pride and egos of those individuals whose form has deteriorated, ranks are closed and messages of defiance begin to filter out of Anfield on an almost daily basis.

Over the past few weeks, this traditional scenario has begun to unfold, but surprisingly the expected reversal in fortune has so far failed to materialise, despite the insistence of Kenny Dalglish, the team manager, that results will improve once his players begin to enjoy a more even, "bounce of the ball."

Since defeating Southampton at Anfield on December 22, Liverpool have enjoyed some good fortune, notably in an FA Cup third-round tie at Blackburn Rovers, but, it has to be said, precious little continuity in respect of either results or performances. Having collected just seven points from their last six League fixtures, today's derby match, one of only a handful to have beaten the atrocious weather, is of paramount importance to the champions.

Inevitably, much of yesterday's talk was of the passion and commitment which is required on such occasions, with both Dalglish and Howard Kendall, his Everton counterpart, reaffirming that the form book can be discounted when a divided city unites, albeit for only 90 minutes.

"Form has never meant much in these games," Dalglish said. "Every other city in Britain must envy the atmosphere which is created when Liverpool and Everton meet."

Kendall remains similarly entranced by the prospect of the nineteenth Merseyside derby in just five years. "I am genuinely excited about the prospect of renewing the old rivalry," he said.

"In the past, I have experienced going into games against Liverpool with the feeling that we don't stand a chance, but that was during my early days here, during my first spell in charge.

"These games have become better as they have become closer. There are two ways to look at going to Liverpool. One is to think about what they might do to you, while the other is to think positively about what you can do to them."

While Kendall is expected to name the side which defeated Sunderland at Goodison Park last weekend, Dalglish does have selection problems, admittedly of his own making. The recent signings of David Speedie from Coventry City and Jimmy Carter from Millwall have served to increase substantially the pressure within a senior squad which now lacks only Hansen, the club captain.

Speedie is expected to play after recovering from a stomach complaint, which would suggest that Beardsley, the England forward, may have to be content with watching the 144th League meeting of the two clubs from the substitutes' bench or, quite possibly, the main stand.

Sunderland, meanwhile, can steal a psychological edge on their snow-bound first division relegation rivals by beating Wimbledon at Roker Park. The ground's proximity to the sea has often left it playable when inclement weather has prevented matches further inland, and George Tyson, a local retired League referee, had no hesitation in declaring the match on when he inspected the pitch yesterday morning.

With Sheffield United's attempt to stay in the first division suddenly starting to appear credible, the question of who goes down is now less obvious. Sunderland stand seventeenth in the table, Brian Mooney, a £225,000 midweek purchase from Preston North End, will make his debut on the wing for Sunderland.

Under-soil heating at Maine Road means that Manchester City, who are eighth, face Chelsea, who are ninth and fresh from last week's win over Arsenal.

In the second division, Portsmouth, who are third bottom, will aim to build on last week's win over Notts County by succeeding on the under-soil heated pitch at Blackburn Rovers.

A division lower, an unchanged Bolton Wanderers aim to extend their unbeaten League run to 18 matches at home to Huddersfield Town.

FISHING

Testing times for rivers authority

By CONRAD VOSS BARK

THE National Rivers Authority (NRA) is likely to spend about £100,000 this year in extra efforts to improve the river Test and other Hampshire chalk streams, where conditions have become critical in some cases after two years of drought.

Up to half a million salmon fingerlings will be stocked in the Test, fish ladders installed, and the spawning gravels, where salmon lay their eggs, cleaned.

John Chandler, the fishery officer of the NRA's southern region, said this was because the salmon run last year had dropped to a critical level. The Institute of Freshwater Ecology, a scientific body, is starting this month to study the salmon redds and advise what more can be done.

Another contractor will begin to build up river banks in certain areas, to be agreed with the landowners, in order to increase the velocity of the flow of the Test. This will help to carry away sediment which in the past few years has been so thick in the water in spring and early summer that visibility in parts of the river has been no more than six inches.

Other studies to be carried out include biological and botanical research.

Since criticism of the NRA came to a head last year, the southern region's headquarters in Worthing has been buzzing with activity — committees in session, papers passed from office to office, and more staff out on the rivers. All this has impressed critics of the NRA, who last year complained little or nothing had been done to improve things.

A typical defence is that they are doing their best and that no one could put the river back to what it was after years of neglect. Some old hands, however, grumble that there is too much academic theorising and not enough contact with people who really do know their river.

More resistance on the rinks

By KEN LAWRENCE

IF YOU thought you had heard the last of Australians bowling like demons and giving Englishmen sleepless nights then you were wrong. I am sorry to be the bearer of such tidings, but next week four more Aussie bowlers will advance, intent upon putting Poms and anyone else not from the southern hemisphere in their place.

The better tidings are that the opposition these predators will face at the Preston Guild Hall are not likely to be such pushovers as Bruce Reid and Craig McDermott found our cricketers. David Bryant, Tony Allcock and John Price are made of sterner stuff.

They have all won the world indoor bowls championship — Price, the civil servant from Port Talbot, holds the title and is No. 1 seed — but an overseas player has never done so. The question is — will 1991 be the year that one does?

Certainly it will not be want of trying: Ian Schuback, last year's beaten finalist, Rob Parrella, who beat Bryant for the Commonwealth gold medal, Trevor Morris and their skip, Rex Johnston, are seasoned and highly competitive players.

The home challenge will be strong, however. Any one of the three, Price, Allcock or Bryant, could win on February 24 although Price, for one, is under no illusions. "There will be no easy games. The Aussies are all good," he says.

He has a slight preference these days for the indoor game because of the truer surface. And BBC2, who will miss Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's play and pick up the action from Friday (*Sport on Friday*, 2.15pm) are happier indoors rather than out. There are no worries about rain stopping play, the carpet ensures true line and length and the roof ensures a more intimate atmosphere.

Incidentally, those who still think of bowls as "an old man's game" should watch for the Irish and Guernsey qualifying names: Jeremy Henry and Adrian Welch are both 16.

Sugar Ray Leonard probably wishes he was still 16 — but at 34 he is, if not the finest pound-for-pound boxer in the world, still one of the sweetest around.

In the small hours tomorrow he seeks to take the WBC world light middleweight title from Terry Norris, aged 23. If he does, as he should, he will have added a sixth title to his long portfolio at different weights. Screensport has exclusive coverage, which it has chosen to put out at peak time tomorrow (9pm) rather than live at 4am.

This is the first of two world championships they will screen this month — they have Chris Eubank's first defence live on February 23.

When Welsh viewers watch their *Rugby Roundup* teaming Newbridge and Neath tonight (HTV) 11pm, they will not hear the voices of Peter Wheeler and David Kirk. But the former England and New Zealand captain will have been secretly summarising the match — the latest in the ITV search for the men to ensure their World Cup coverage is better than anything the BBC produces.

Already other England captains in Steve Smith and Nigel Melville, along with Gareth Chilcott, have gone through this dress rehearsal.

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN VIEW

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY: At least the weather should not stop Grandstand (BBC1, 12.15) from showing the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker at Wembley. Live golf — the Bob Hope Classic from Palm Springs — can be found on Screensport (9.30-11.30pm).

TOMORROW: Manchester United entertain Leeds United in the Rumbelows Cup (ITV, 2.55). The first seven frames of the Wembley snooker final are on BBC1 (3.0-5.05, with the later stages at 11.10pm). Screensport follow the Sugar Ray Leonard bout (9pm) with the Bob Hope golf.

MONDAY: The Newcastle and Nottingham Forest FA Cup tie is live on the Sports Channel from 7.30pm and on BBC1's highlights at 10.10pm. If you missed Sugar Ray's contest, Screensport has a repeat (8.0-9.30pm).

TUESDAY: Live boxing is promised on Screensport (8pm) with Mark Reefer's Commonwealth super-featherweight title bout against Thunder Ayrah and also on the Sports Channel (8pm).

WEDNESDAY: Championship boxing on both ITV and BBC — featherweight Sean Murphy and John Davison (*Midweek Sports Special* from 10.45pm) and Pat Barrett's first defence of his European light-middleweight title (*Sportsnight*, BBC1, 10pm). The commercial channel has Chelsea's Rumbelows Cup semi-final against Sheffield Wednesday.

THURSDAY: Channel 4's in-depth look at Chris Brasher for their *Dispatches* programme might be slapped in tonight. He and Woosnam's rewarding year of golf is featured by the Sports Channel (8.0-10pm).

FRIDAY: John Prices faces the first challenge to his world indoor bowls title at Preston. *Sport on Friday* (2.20pm) opens up BBC2's coverage of this major championship. England's rugby captain, Will Carling, talks his head off on the Sports Channel (7pm).

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (USA): Boston Celtics 117; New York Knicks 101; Washington Bullets 124, New Jersey Nets 117; Atlanta Hawks 127, Charlotte Hornets 114; Houston Rockets 98, Cleveland Cavaliers 82; Orlando Magic 108, Minnesota Timberwolves 103; Chicago Bulls 95, Detroit Pistons 88; Dallas Mavericks 102, Golden State Warriors 101; San Antonio Spurs 118, Indiana Pacers 108.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP: Final pool: Maes Kingsmen 97 (A Cunningham 23, Gordon 19, Henlan 18, Byrd 14, Duncan 11), Ards Sabatta 96 (double O-T; Gallo 38, Sabara 24, Giannakis 18, Sobin 15); Limoges 95, Maccabi Tel Aviv 114; Jugoplastika Split (Yug) 108, Scavolini Pesaro (It) 105. Women: Alsasc Mirande (Fr) 109, Arvika (Swe) 77. Escirosta Lerbigrad 77, Sporting Athens 79, Caserta (It) 66, Salgar Zaragoza (Sp) 66.

TENNIS

MILAN: ATP men's tournament: Second round: P Cash (Aus) bt G Prpic (Yug), 7-5, 6-3; N Kulti (Swe) bt D Nargiso (It), 7-5, 6-1; A Volkov (USSR) bt E Jelen (Ger), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6. Third round: J Hlasek (Swi) bt J Gunnarsson (Swe), 6-0, 7-5.

OSLO: Women's indoor tournament: Second round: R Reggi (It) bt S Gerbs (Ger), 6-2, 6-3; S Appelmans (Bel) bt N van Lottum (Fr), 7-5, 6-2; N Herman (Fr) bt L Lapi (It), 7-5, 6-2; P Perata (Fr) bt le Jaggard (Aus), 6-3, 7-6; C Temsky (Fr) bt S Auer (Ger), 7-5, 7-5, 6-2; S Reinstadler (Austria) bt M Maruska (Austria), 6-3, 7-5; C Linqvist (Swe) bt K Nowak (Pol), 6-0, 6-0; C Dahlman (Swe) bt T Schaub-Lange (Den) w/o.

WELLINGTON: Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: L Maeno (USSR) bt E Sagarova (Cz) 6-3 6-4; K Quentrec (Fr) bt S Hack (Ger), 6-0, 6-2, 6-3; K Goorridge (Aus) bt B Abner (Ger), 6-2, 6-3; A Smaldone (Cz) bt L Field (Aus), 7-6, 7-6.

BOXING

WATFORD: Professional tournament: Welterweight Bantamweight (10 rounds): Duke McKenzie (Croydon) bt Julio Blanco (San Antonio, Texas), rsc 7th rnd. Bantam (8 rounds): Mark Tierney (Watford) bt Carl Farrell (Swansea), pts. Light (8 rounds): Billy Schwer (Luton) bt John Smith (Liverpool), rsc 2nd rnd. Light-welter (8 rounds): Rick Burnell (London) bt B F Williams (Watford), rsc. Welter (8 rounds): Phil Epton (Doncaster) bt Pat Durkin (Stockport), pts.

GOLF

SAN LORENZO, Algarve: Pro-Am: Final scores: 201: D Williams (Woburn), 70, 202: M Shucks (Warren), 70, 203: J Sewell (Woburn), 74, 203: C Cox (West Essex), 68, 205: I Mosey (unattached), 73, 207: N Brown (Mid Herts), 68, 209: D Clark (Chesterfield), 74, 207: N Blackstock (Woburn), 70, 209: C Williams (West Essex), 71; 5 Purves (Hillingdon), 71, Teams: 642 (54 under par): D Williams, A Digby, W Riding, A Pruden. 647: N Brown, P Mulvey, S Taylor, R Speller; J Sewell, C Bishop; M Crossley, M Kendall (Brown's team second on score on last tee-shot).

PUMA LISBON: Men's tournament: Women's Open: Second-round leaders: 146: C Nichlos (Japan), 74, 71; K Marlowe (US), 71, 74, 146; L Ann Mills (US), 73,73, V Ida (Japan), 75, 73, 148; Tai Yu Chuan (Tai), 75, 72, K Lunn (Aus), 73, 74; M L Lansdowne (Swe), 76, 74, Young Mee Lee (S Kor), 72, 75, 149; Tai Yu Hsu (Tai), 74, 74, B Henry (Ger), 73, 76, K Sallo (US), 73, 76; J Lemen (US), 72, 76, S Prosser (GB), 69, 79, 148; J Rule (US), 74, 75, S Scrudaick (GB), 73, 75.

NORDIC SKIING

VAL DI FIEMME, Italy: World championships: Women's 15km classic style: 1, Y Vaibe (USSR), 44min 58.50sec; 2, T Dyvendahl (Nor), 46:02.40; 3, S Belmondo (It), 46:31.40; 4, S Pedersen (Nor), 46:40.90; 5, P Maasalmo (Fin), 46:50.60; 6, M-H Weston (Swe), 47:06.40; 7, Y Kasharskaya (USSR), 47:07.10; 8, S Nageikina (USSR), 47:08.00; 9, M Lukkarinen (Fin), 47:12.70; 10, C Goerlin (Swe), 47:18.90. World Cup positions: 1, Vaibe, 120pts; 2, Belmondo, 83; 3, Weston, 59; 4, Nageikina, 56, equal 5, I-H Nyorastien (Nor) and I. Egorova (USSR), 52. 7 Pedersen, 41. Combined events: Ski jumps: 1, K Otner (Austria), 230.5pts, 2, F-G Lundberg (Nor), 222.5; 3, Masaaki Abe (Japan), 221.7; 4, K Sulzenbacher (Aus), 214.2; 5, Reichi Miuta (Japan), 213.7; 6, H-P Pont (Ger), 213.5.

CYCLING

ARIANDE: Etape de Besseges, third stage (105km): 1, M Cipollini (It), 2hr 43min 47sec; 2, J Capiot (Bel); 3, W Peeters (Bel); 4, C Weiss (Ger); 5, H Manders (Neth); 6, A Valjanovis (Russ), all same time. Overall: 1, Cipollini 9hr 55min 17sec; 2, Valjanovis; 3, C Bontans (Bel); 4, Peeters; 5, Weiss; 6, T Akkermans (Neth), all same time.

JUDO

PARIS: Open tournament: Men: 60kg: Quarter-finals: Pool A: G Giovinazzo (It) bt T Samaan (Fr), ippon; G Steindau (Fr) bt G Pogorel (Neth), yuko; L Bimon (Fr) bt T Tero (Can), ippon; T Hadamecky (Fr) bt P Lasnier (Fr), koka. 65kg: Quarter-finals: Pool A: N Hecher (Fr) bt P Sadowski (Pol), ippon; E Born (Switz) bt M Schmidt (Ger), decision; P Breyer (Swi) bt K Bai Sang (SKor), koka; P Boelle (Fr) bt J-P Cassin (Can), yuko. Pool B: J-F Theriez (Fr) bt A Almeida (Por), ippon; P Rosso (Fr) bt F Anciaes (Br), ippon; P Lenz (Swi) bt H Hernandez (Cub), ippon; B Campargue (Fr) bt J-P Ball (GB), yuko. Women: 48kg: Quarter-finals: Pool A: J Petberg (Ger) bt L Tignola (Fr), ippon; C Nowak (Fr) bt T Moskvina (USSR), waza-ari; Jeon Hee Yoo (SKor) bt J Petberg (Fr), koka. B Franzuzo (Ger) bt M Schmamm (Aus), decision. Pool B: M Dupont (Fr) bt A Chodakowska (Pol), ippon; B Nardoux (Fr) bt E Bowley (GB), koka; K Lee (US) bt K Matinorati (Fr), ippon; S Meloux (Fr) bt V Soler (Sp), ippon. 56kg: Quarter-finals: Pool A: E Wiberton (Swe) bt C Bruggs (Austral), yuka; A Munoz (Sp) bt S Pasteur (Fr), ippon; F Bonin (Fr) bt E Mass (Cuba), koka; H Gossens (Bel) bt J Wang (China), ippon. Pool B: L Vergaca (Cuba) bt O Serra (Fr), waza-ari; L Poirier (Can) bt C Schuler (Ger), koka; J Gei (Fran) bt V Rousseau (Fr), ippon; C Davy (Fr) bt G Tonora (It), decision.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (pm): Calgary Flames 4, Boston Bruins 1; Vancouver Canucks 2, Philadelphia Flyers 1; Montreal Canadiens 5, Quebec Nordiques 1; Minnesota North Stars 4, Toronto Maple Leafs 2.

STOCKHOLM: Four-nations tournament: Sweden 4, Czechoslovakia 2; Soviet Union 2, Czechoslovakia 2.

FOOTBALL

SPANISH CUP: Second round: First leg: Real Madrid 1, Atletico Madrid 1.

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-finals: First leg: Roma 1, Juventus 1.

VALLETTA: European Under-21 championships: Group 6: Malta 1, Portugal 3.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Club Cricket Conference: 216-7 (M Roberts 82, S N V Waterton 60), Newcastle City & Suburban (Australia) 173. Club Cricket Conference won by 43 runs.

IN BRIEF

Riches for Fernandez

MARY Joe Fernandez collected a record women's tennis prize — nearly £137,000 — by beating Jennifer Capriati 6-0, 6-2 in the Big Bear Challenge in Columbus, Ohio.

The match was based on golf's skins game, with money for each point, ace, game and set.

JUDO: Sharon Rendle was thrown by Dominique Berna, of France, after 14 seconds in Paris yesterday. Roy Stone, the Commonwealth Games light-weight champion, has retired.

CRICKET: Middlesex have re-appointed Mike Gatting as captain and John Emburey as his deputy. Simon Hughes will take his benefit against Lancashire at Lord's on July 21.

RACKETS: Neil Smith, of Chicago, avenged his world championship eliminator defeat by Shannon Hazell, of Clifton, at the Lacoste British Open championship at Queen's Club. Smith meets James Male or John Prenn in tomorrow's final.

RESULTS: Quarter-final: J Prenn bt R Wakeley, 15-8, 15-8, 9-15, 15-9. Semi-final: N Smith bt S Hazell, 15-9, 15-7, 15-5, 16-4.

RIFLE SHOOTING: Snow prevented the Civil Service women's team getting to Borden, so they shot in London and exchanged scores with the WRAC by telephone.

Time has come to give us a break

LAURA THOMPSON

After a temporary aberration, the BBC has rediscovered its sense of priorities. Instead of a ceaseless line of military and Middle East experts, presided over by David Dimbleby, the BBC television afternoon has had restored to it a ceaseless line of snooker and suit-without-jacket experts, presided over by Tony Gubba. No, not even a war can keep snooker off the screen for long. One gets a break from all other sports, but snooker, the sport that gives you a break, does not give you a break.

Pot Black. That was what I used to like, because it confined itself to a weekly slot that would never overrun into *The Brothers* or whatever came after it. It knew its place, it had its parameters, and it had its Winifred Atwell-style theme tune, which was so repellently jaunty, so rapidly falsetto, that it had the hysterical air of a 45rpm record being played at 78.

Pot Black allowed snooker players to reveal personality; or perhaps they just had more personality then, or else fewer worries, fewer incredibly vital televised tournaments. Not many players now would be capable of replicating the benign vampire shrug which Ray Reardon always produced after an inept shot, or the ability of Alex Higgins to play snooker in time with the *Pot Black* music.

I watched snooker a lot when Alex played. He may have been a scallywag, but he displayed emotional susceptibility, which enabled one to identify with him. He played according to his personality and his personality was unsuited to snooker: therein lay the fascination.

Jimmy White can exert the same spell, but, lately, he has got bored with being worn into submission by sensible, consistent players, and has become slightly sensible himself.

Since Alex retired ("... this game is the *most corrupt* game in the world ...", sob, gulp, puff) there has been little to relieve the essential boringness of snooker – because, like cricket, snooker *is* boring, and either you can put up with that or else you cannot. I find it hard to concentrate when watching it on television.

The other day, I managed to stay interested for about 30 seconds, then relapsed into doing something else only to be alerted by the words: "One, Tony Meo." Then I must have blacked out because when I came round the announcement was: "52, Dean Reynolds."

Nevertheless, later on in the afternoon, I realised how people do become addicted to watching the game: it is a similar pleasure to that of plucking one's eyebrows. I can sit for many dead minutes staring unseemingly into a mirror, tweezers aloft, imagining hairs, watching new ones grow. I am in a semi-trance, concentrated so fully on something that I have gone way beyond concentration.

This was the feeling that I got from the spectators at the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley. They were utterly still and silent, formidably intent, and a slightly glazed, rather like a RSC audience that is trying so hard to stay with the Shakespearean language that words cease to have any meaning, and with just the same air of torpid reverence.

The atmosphere was tense, but not in an exciting way, more in the way that a dentist's waiting-room is tense – that is to say very restrained and full of people staring at things without taking them in. Nevertheless, the audience seemed quite content. They were submissive to the tedium, which is one way of enjoying snooker.

There was, however, another way and that was by watching it on the television in a room beneath the hall, surrounded by journalists, trainers and the occasional snooker player. "What would you play there, Stephen?" "Oob, well, I'd ..." In such company, which is a hierarchy of expertise, snooker became a source of banter, a joke and watching it took on a clubbish, worldly, light-hearted air that I felt to be appropriate to its origins.

All sports are pointless when one thinks about them, but snooker always seems to teeter on the brink of absurdity – its minutely-varied repetitiveness, its ponderous hiatuses, its heavy-breathing commentators, its down-to-earth competitors in their wine-waiter costumes. It can reduce one to a state of advanced hypnosis, the eyebrow-plucking state.

What it really needs is to be on television a bit less frequently and to be accepted for what it is, an entertaining phenomenom rather than a sport.

As it was on *Pot Black*, of course, which perfectly conveyed the personality of snooker and its players; but then, no doubt, the prize for winning *Pot Black* was a carriage clock, a set of cue chalks and a lifetime's supply of BBC canteen luncheon vouchers.

RACING

Safeguards taken against recurrence of Aliysa affair

By RICHARD EVANS

THE first step towards avoiding a repeat of the fiasco involving the 17-month long Aliysa affair has been agreed by the Jockey Club.

A time limit of 31 days will be imposed on trainers who wish to have a confirmatory test carried out on a post-race sample from a horse found to be posuive by the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory at Newmarket.

Until now there has been no time restriction and in the Aliysa case Michael Stoute did not have the filly's sample analysed until three months after being notified of the positive test.

The new procedure will apply to new positive samples from February 21 when details will appear in the *Racing Calendar*. It is the first of several measures likely to be announced by the Jockey Club in the forthcoming weeks, which are aimed at tightening up the way future doping investigations are conducted.

The prolonged Jockey Club enquiry into the Aliysa affair led to some respected figures, including John Dunlop, suggesting the handling of the case and the delays were making Britain the laughing stock of the racing world.

Aliysa, owned by the Aga Khan, won the Oaks on June 10, 1989. Twenty days later, Stoute was informed the filly had failed a post-race dope test. After repeated delays and adiournments, the Jockey Club enquiry into the case finally ended in disqualification on November 20, 1990 – 528 days after the Epsom classic was staged.

An internal examination of the case, supervised by Christopher Foster, deputy chief executive of the Jockey Club, was announced following the outcome, and is currently examining the sensitive issue of drug thresholds as well as enquiry procedures.

The idea of a time limit for confirmatory tests precedes the Foster enquiry and will be reported to Jockey Club stewards on Monday, along with an update on the internal investigation.

Under the new rule, a trainer will have to tell the Jockey Club of his wish to have a confirmatory test within ten days of being officially notified of a positive sample. Owners will be covered by the ruling.

A confirmatory test must then be carried out at an official racing laboratory within 21 days unless there are exceptional circumstances leading to a delay which have been accepted by the stewards.

The exchange of technical and scientific evidence raised difficulties during the Aliysa case and the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee may attempt to smooth the path of future enquiries by introducing preliminary hearings where directions could be issued on timing and exchange of evidence, in the rare cases where it is necessary.

A renewed demand for the introduction of drugs thresholds followed the Aliysa case to prevent the disquahfication of horses discovered to have minute amounts of prohibited substances in post-race samples.

Although thresholds for naturally-occurring substances found by laboratory tests are under constant review, the Jockey Club is likely to stick to its policy of not introducing thresholds for unnaturally-occurring substances.



Aga Khan: horses removed from Britain

The main reason for opposing thresholds is lack of scientific agreement about the effect of minute quantities of drugs on a horse's performance. There are too many variables, and racing administrators are reluctant to be drawn into judgmental areas where conflicting scientific evidence would make consistent rulings impossible.

Such difficulties could stand in the way of the Jockey Club agreeing to the introduction of a preliminary investigative body to deal with drugs-related cases which would decide whether a full disciplinary hearing into a positive sample was necessary.

The idea for such a body, working on similar lines to the Director of Public Prosecutions, was put forward in the wake of the Aliysa case by the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA). Although careful thought is being given within Portman Square to the proposal, the underlying difficulty remains that of making a judgment as to whether a small amount of a drug did or did not affect a horse's performance.

Professor Bob Smith, chairman of the Horserace Scientific Advisory Committee, said in December that it was impossible to test drugs accurately for the effect they have upon the performance of a horse. "If you were to improve the performance of a horse by 0.5 per cent, which would be undetectable in most types of testing programmes, that is the equivalent of three lengths over a mile," he said.

Although it could be some months before all the results flowing from the Jockey Club's internal examination of the Aliysa case are known, there would appear to be limited hope of the changes satisfying the Aga Khan.

The Aga pulled his horses out of British racing because of his unhappiness with drug-testing procedures and their administration in Britain. His scientists showed that the source of 3-hydroxycamphor discovered in Aliysa's post-race sample could have been borneol, found in feedstuffs and bedding, and not camphor, a prohibited substance.

He will not race horses in Britain until "such time as effective measures have been instituted to correct the flawed equine drug-testing procedures and the administration of the rules sanctioning the use of prohibited substances in racing in this country."

Downhill ski course tailored for Albertville Games depends on postcard weather

An Olympics track fails first test

From a CORRESPONDENT
VAL D'ISERE

WORLD Cup race organiser swrung their hands and looked skyward as snowfall wiped out the first of two planned downhills on the new Olympic course here yesterday.

The weather here is always a watchword and cancellations are practically a tradition, but the scrapping of training on Thursday followed by the loss of yesterday's race brings into question the vulnerability of a much more significant event: the Olympic downhill on February 9, 1992.

Olympic planners in France have been wise to schedule the downhill as the first alpine event. The timetable reveals that they have a block of five back-up days to get a second, third or even fourth shot at it.

For the past three seasons the World Cup programme has been plagued by cancellations caused through lack of snow, and the oracles have been muttering about earth warming and ozone holes. Races here are cancelled more often for too much snow rather than too little, but the area is also susceptible to fog, wind and downpours of rain that can turn a carefully prepared course into a quagmire in an hour.

Bernhard Russi, the Swiss former world champion and the course designer, has given the Olympics a very special downhill – 2,905 metres of visual thrills plunging 972 metres from start to finish on gradients up to 63 per cent.

He has snaked 26 curves through rock face and gorges to make him unloved by the Old Guard racers raised on speeds of up to 145kph. But Russi's raw material – "La Face de Bellevarde" presents a problem that even he could not solve. Olympics and snowstorms aside, racers will only appear on "La Face" when it is graced with postcard weather.

Peter Wurnsberger, of Austria, and many other veteran racers do not like the course because it is slow, but, speed aside, the problem of the mountain's profile remains the issue. Racers will average only around 90kph on "La Face", 20kph less than the roller coaster ride of the Wengen classic, but the slightest cloud, a whisp of fog, and especially snow will turn "La Face" into a white blur of flat light.

The bumps and turns will be impossible to see and Russi's downhill will be transformed into a two-minute trap for the unwary.

● Organisers of next year's Winter Olympics in Albertville have taken out insurance against the United States team pulling out



On the up: Bournissen, of Switzerland, is on line for victory, in the downhill at the Kandahar course

Late flurry takes title

MEGEVE, France – The British International Services alpine championships ended here yesterday, with the men's special slalom taking place in testing conditions (Ian Sweet writes).

The race produced the inter-service and open special slalom champions – Pascal Blanc, from the French Air Force, and Hugh Hutchison (British Army), respectively – and the overall individual and team awards. Hutchison, the British mogul champion, retained his title with a late surge, but he was pushed all the way by Craig Bonnington, of the Air Force.

A metre of overnight snow made the conditions near impossible. The competitors had to walk to the start as no lifts were operating.

The British Army retained the British inter-services team challenge cup for the third successive year, and for the first time in ten years there was a new team winner in the open competition, with the French Air Force receiving the Williams and Glyn challenge cup.

The Duchess of York trophies went to Hutchison as the overall Commonwealth male champion, Jenny Davidson, of the Royal Air Force (best overall female), and Mike Hammond (best handicapped skier).

In yesterday's special slalom Hammond, who has lost a leg, finished a creditable 29th overall.

RESULTS: Special slalom: Open: 1, P Blanc (French Air Force), 2min 18.40sec; 2, L Granduss (Spanish Army), 2:19.31; 3, J Howard (Sid High School), 2:21.48. Inter-services: 1, H Hutchison (Army), 2:22.63; 2, C Bonnington (RAF), 2:27.56; 3, G Williams (RAF), 2:30.67.

Vialbe shows her power

VAL DI FIEMME, Italy (Reuter) – Yelena Vialbe, a petite but powerful Siberian, gave a warning to her opponents yesterday that she intends to dominate the women's events at the world nordic championships.

Vialbe won the opening women's event, the 15km classic cross country, and her unofficial time of 44min 58.5sec was more than one minute faster than second-placed Trude Dybendahl, of Norway.

The Italian favourite, Stefania Belmondo, was roared on by the crowd to take the bronze and became the first Italian woman to stand on the victory podium. Marjo-Liisa Kirvesniemi, Finland's brightest hope fell at 3km

Results, page 25

Fifth time lucky for Bournissen

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (Reuter) – Chantal Bournissen, of Switzerland, who has been so close to victory several times this year, triumphed in the fifth women's World Cup downhill alpine race of the season yesterday.

Bournissen, who finished fourth in the world championship downhill in Saalbach, last month, took advantage of superb, sunny conditions to ski the Kandahar course in an unofficial time of 1min 37.01sec and gain the third World Cup victory of her career.

The Swiss racer, who has twice finished in the top three in downhills this season, completed the day 0.07sec ahead of Carole Merle, of France, with Veronika Wallinger, of Austria, third in 1min 37.45sec.

It was the first World Cup downhill victory for Bournissen since 1987, although she won a super giant slalom in December.

The newly-crowned world downhill champion and reigning overall World Cup champion, Petra Kronberger, of Austria, missed the Garmisch race after injuring a knee at the world championships last month.

Her absence mattered little as the result had virtually no effect on the daunting Kronberger lead in the overall positions.

In the downhill positions she still holds a one-point lead over the German, Katrin Gutensohn, who also missed the race yesterday because of injury. She is not expected to compete again this season.

Merle, in second-place, narrowed the gap slightly to 164 points in the overall rankings. In the downhill placings the Frenchwoman now lies third, only two points behind Gutensohn and three behind Kronberger.

The Bournissen triumph has promoted her from equal fifth to third behind Merle in the overall rankings with 97 points.

RESULTS: 1, C Bournissen (Switz), 1min 37.01sec; 2, C Merle (Fr) 1:37.08; 3, V Wallinger (Austria) 1:37.45; 4, B Sadleder (Austria) 1:37.57; 5, K Lee-Gartner (Can) 1:37.82; 6, W Zelenskaja (USSR) 1:37.84; 7, A Haas (Austria) 1:37.88; 8, Sabine Ginther (Austria) 1:37.97; 9, T Lebedeva (USSR) 1:37.98; 10, N Bouvier (Fr) 1:38.01; Overall World Cup positions: 1, P Kronberger (Austria) 276pts; 2, Merle 112; 3, Bournissen 97; 4, K Gutensohn (Ger) 87; 5, Ginther 86; 6, V Schneider (Switz) 72.

HOCKEY

Kerly strikes twice to deny brave French

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

TWO splendid goals in 22 seconds by Sean Kerly tilted an exciting match with France in England's favour yesterday, giving the English an 8-6 victory in the world invitation indoor classic at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

France, whose resilience was always a threat to England's prospects, were in contention with the score at 6-6 when Kerly struck with astonishing force. For his first goal, he was helped by Stamp but the second was a solo effort.

Kerly's intervention was immediately preceded by a touch of drama: Cherez equalised for France from a corner, the ball striking Leman in the face before landing in the net. Cherez himself was quick to draw attention to the plight of Leman, who was led away with blood streaming from a cut over his left eye.

England's other scorers in the match were Stamp (two), Jennings (two), Grimley and Nail.

In pool A, Scotland lost 6-4 to Austria, who led 3-1 at half-time. The Scots started well with a goal in the seventh minute by Christie, but Austria soon raced away to a 4-1 lead.

A goal by Hay and two more by Christie kept Scotland hopes alive before Austria delivered two late blows to put the result beyond doubt. Wurst, Austria's best, scored twice.

Spain's late arrival because of the adverse weather caused a slight adjustment in the order of play.

Ian Jennings scored four goals with Nail and Kerly adding one apiece in England's 6-2 win over the United States. England's 6-0 lead at half-time was cut by Maruquin, who scored twice. Leman was back in action for England with three stitches in his wound.

RESULTS: Pool A: Scotland 4, Austria 6. Pool B: Australia 6, United States 2; France 8, England 6; England 6, United States 2.

Cup final venue switch

THE Football League has probably saved the Hockey Association some embarrassment by ordering the artificial turf pitch at Luton to be taken out (Sydney Friskin writes).

Hockey's League Cup final, originally due to be played at Luton on May 5, has now been put back to May 26 at a venue to be decided.

This change of date should give the Hockey Association time to complete its league programme, despite postponements.

Nevertheless, the association must rethink its policy of allowing clubs to seek postponement if just one player is committed to England duty. The results in the present circumstances could have proved disastrous.

The task of completing the existing schedule has been further complicated by the dire weather.

Today's first division match between Hounslow and Indian Gymkhana at Feltham has been called off and tomorrow's game between Indian Gymkhana and Isca is likely to suffer the same fate. The entire weekend league programme is in danger of being wiped out.

Stephen Baines, the Hockey Association's chief executive, looked a worried man as he said in Glasgow yesterday: "We said all along that the weather might make things difficult, and now it has happened."

He also feared that the fourth-round matches in the Nationwide Anglia Cup next week might also be affected by the weather.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League

First division

Liverpool v Everton (all ticket) .....
Man City v Chelsea .....
Sunderland v Wimbledon .....

POSTPONED: Arsenal v Nottingham Forest; Coventry v Luton; Crystal Palace v Tottenham; Derby v Norwich; QPR v Aston Villa.

Second division

Blackburn v Portsmouth .....

POSTPONED: Brighton v Bristol City; Bristol Rovers v Ipswich; Millwall v Charlton; Notts County v Watford; Oldham v Middlesbrough; Plymouth v Wolverhampton; Port Vale v Barnsley; Sheffield Wednesday v Leicester; Swindon v Oxford; West Bromwich v Hull; West Ham v Newcastle.

Third division

Bolton v Huddersfield .....

POSTPONED: Birmingham v Stoke; Chester v Brentford; Fulham v Shrewsbury; Grimsby v Crewe; Mansfield v Leyton Orient; Reading v Bradford City; Rotherham v Bury; Swansea v Exeter.

Fourth division

POSTPONED: Aldershot v Wrexham; Blackpool v Northampton; Darlington v Walsall; Doncaster v Halifax; Hartlepool v Gillingham; Hereford v Chesterfield; Lincoln v York; Maidstone v Carlisle; Peterborough v Scunthorpe; Stockport v Rochdale.

GM Vauxhall Conference

Altrincham v Fisher Ath .....
Gateshead v Telford .....

POSTPONED: Barnet v Macclesfield; Boston v Cheltenham; Kettering v Sutton United; Kidderminster v Barrow; Merthyr v Bath; Northwich v Slough; Runcorn v Yeovil; Stafford v Wycombe.

B and Q Scottish League

Premier division

Dundee Utd v Hibernian .....
Rangers v St Mirren .....

POSTPONED: Dunfermline v Celtic; Hearts v St Johnstone; Motherwell v Aberdeen.

First division

Ayr v Hamilton .....
Forfar v Kilmarnock .....
Raith v Brechin .....

POSTPONED: Airdrie v Morton; Clydebank v Falkirk; Meadowbank Thistle v Clyde. Partick Thistle v Dundee.

Second division

Arbroath v E Fife .....
Montrose v E Stirling .....
Queen of South v Cowdenbeath .....
Queen's Park v Dumbarton .....
Stirling v Alloa .....
Stranraer v Albion R .....

POSTPONED: Stenhousemuir v Berwick Rangers.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Second division south: Feltham v Cove. *All other matches postponed.*

FA VASE: Fifth round: Great Harwood v Bridlington Town; Hinckley Athletic v Guiseley. Trowbridge v Dawlish. *All other matches postponed.*

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Finchley v Horwich; Southport v Stalybridge; Witton v Mossley. *All other matches postponed.* First division: Clarrington v Radcliffe Borough; Irlam v Harrogate; Lancaster v Rossendale; Nelherfield v Farsley Celtic; Workington v Worksop. *All other matches postponed.*

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cambridge C v Crawley; Wealdstone v Halesowen; Weymouth v Atherstone. *All other matches postponed.* Southern division: Margate v Bideford; Newport IOW v Witney; Salisbury v Sudbury. *All other matches postponed.* Midland division: Bridgnorth v Grantham; Hinckley v Burton Coalfield. King's Lynn v Newport AFC; Redditch v RC Warwick; Stourbridge v Leicester Utd; Tamworth v Dudley. *All other matches postponed.*

DVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: All matches postponed.

SHERNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena v Glentoran; Bangor v Ards; Carrick v Omagh; Distillery v Coleraine; Glenavon v Larne; Newry v Crusaders; Portadown v Linfield.

IRISH ROADFERRY CUP: Second round: Cliftonville v RUC (2.30).

RUGBY UNION

Courage clubs championship

All matches in First, Second and Fourth divisions postponed.

Third division

Vale of Lune v W Hartlepool (2.30).

All other matches postponed.

McEwan's Scottish League

First division

Edinburgh Acads v Currie (3.0) .....
Heriot's FP v Edinburgh Wnders (3.0) .....
Stirling Co v Melrose (3.0) .....

Postponed: Gala v Stewart's Melville FP; Glasgow High-Kelvinside Academy v Boroughmuir; Kelso v Hawick; Selkirk v Jed-Forest.

Second division

Kirkcaldy v Ayr (3.0) .....
Preston Lodge v Dundee HSFP (3.0) .....
Royal High v Musselburgh (3.0) .....
W of Scotland v Kilmarnock (3.0) .....

Postponed: Glasgow Academicals v Langholm; Hillhead-Jordanhill v Dunfermline; Wasps/ans v Corstorphine.

HOCKEY

ERNST AND YOUNG MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers v John Player; Beeston v Kidderminster; Bloxwich v Coventry and North Warwicks; Leicester Westleigh v Olton and West Warwicks.

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridgwater v Hereford; Exeter University v Westbury Saints; Gloucester City v Bath Bucks; Otter Vale v Exeter Cricklers, Plymouth v Marlborough; Swindon v Clevedon; West Gloucester v Cheltenham.

AW YARNS NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Alderley Edge v Ramgarms; Ben Rhydding v Liverpool Senior; Brooklands v Sheffield; Disley v Durham University; Formby v Timperley; Highdown Northern v Norton; Preston v Bowdon; Stockton v Tynemouth.

TIPP-EX YORKSHIRE LEAGUE: Appleby Frodingham v Roses; Barclays v Chapeltown; Bradford v Sheffield Bankers; Driffield v Brigg; Farsley v Rotherham; Grimsby v York CS Trojans; Halifax v Acet; Lincoln v Harrogate; York v Huddersfield.

MITRE NORTH EAST LEAGUE: Darlington v Carlisle; Morpeth v Sunderland; Redcar v Tynedale; St Georges v Marton Pumas; Swalwell v South Shields; Whitehaven v Billingham.

HALPERN AND WOOLF NORTH WEST LEAGUE: Chester v Blackburn; Deeside Ramblers v Knutsford; Oxton v Nantwich Hall, Prescot v Manchester YMCA, Sale v Manchester; Southport v West Derby; Springfields v Cheetham Hill; Wigan v Macclesfield.

BASKETBALL

8.0 unless stated

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Mens: Leicester v Kingston; Sunderland v Hemel Hempstead (6.0). Second division: Brixton v Plymouth; Doncaster v Manchester. Third division: Cardiff v Chiltern. Womens: First division: Brixton v Crystal Palace (2.0); Northampton v London Jets (3.30); Nottingham v Ipswich (5.30); Sheffield v Tyneside (2.0). Second division: Harlesden v Doncaster; Northampton v Leicester (1.15); South Tyneside v Wirral.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Durham v Whitley; Fife v Ayr; Nottingham v Cleveland; Solihull v Murrayfield. First division: Bracknell v Telford. Glasgow v Humberside. Medway v Basingstoke; Romford v Lee Valley; Trafford v Swindon.

ENGLISH LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Sunderland; Hamsgey v Sheffield; Oxford v Richmond.

CHALLENGE MATCH: Chelmsford v Team International.

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Mizuno Brianne v GP Scorpions (2.0); Hilton Leeds v Brunon K (2.0), Sovereign Lassing Sale v Ashcombe (8.0); Lakeland v Southgate (12.15). Royal Bank Cup: Men: Speedwell Rucanor v Hilton Leeds.

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Men's senior indoor world masters (Kelvin Hall, Glasgow).

KARATE: Cowie's Champion of Champions (Civic Hall, Mansfield, 5.0pm).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges International masters (Wembley).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

Rumbelows Cup

Semi-final, first leg

Manchester Utd v Leeds Utd .....

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division (inspections today): Athlone v Dundalk; Bohemians v Galway (3.30); Limerick v Shamrock Shelbourne v Cork City (3.30); Sligo v Derry, Waterford v St Patrick's Athletic.

RUGBY UNION

POSTPONED: Women's International: England v Wales (new date, March 24).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: First round: Bramley v Oldham (2.30); Doncaster v Widnes (3.30); Keighley v Runcorn (3.15); Leeds v Dewsbury; Rochdale v Chorley; Salford v Batley; Swinton v St Helens (1.0); Workington v Hull KR. *All other matches postponed.*

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Second division: Hunslet v Barrow (Elland Road, 3.30).

HOCKEY

POUNDSTRETCHER NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Indian Gymkhana v Ipsa (Fenham School, 2.0); Slough v Wakefield (Wentworth School, Slough 2.0). Second division: Broxbourne v Bournville (Hailybury College, Hertford, 2.30); Cambridge City v Brian (Coachmans Common, Cambridge, 2.15); Doncaster v Reading (Grove Sports Centre, Newark, 2.0); Firebrands v Gore Court (Bristol University, 12.0); Guildford v Harborne (Cranleigh School, 2.0); Lyons v Trojans (Dairy Meadow, Southall 2.30); Richmond v Taunton Vale (Tiddington School, Broome Road 2.30); Warrington v Canterbury (Alsen Park, Salford, 1.30).

BASKETBALL

4.0 unless stated

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Men: Leicester v Kingston; Sunderland v Hemel Hempstead (6.0). Second division: Brixton v Plymouth; Doncaster v Manchester. Third division: Cardiff v Chiltern. Womens: First division: Brixton v Crystal Palace (2.0); Northampton v London Jets (3.30); Nottingham v Ipswich (5.30); Sheffield v Tyneside (2.0). Second division: Harlesden v Doncaster; Northampton v Leicester (1.15); South Tyneside v Wirral.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Durham v Whitley; Fife v Ayr; Nottingham v Cleveland; Solihull v Murrayfield. First division: Bracknell v Telford. Glasgow v Humberside. Medway v Basingstoke; Romford v Lee Valley; Trafford v Swindon.

ENGLISH LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Sunderland; Hamsgey v Sheffield; Oxford v Richmond.

CHALLENGE MATCH: Chelmsford v Team International.

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: Portsmouth v Pelonis (7.30); MGI Wessex v Aquila (6.30). Women: Sovereign Lassing Sale v Southgate (4.30), Lakeland v Ashcombe (8.15).

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Men's senior indoor world masters (Kelvin Hall, Glasgow).

RACKETS: Open singles championships (Queen's Club).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges International masters (Wembley).

Weekend TV, pages 20-21

Move unlikely towards earlier seasonal start

By BRIAN BEEL

WHILE point-to-point racing is presently seriously curtailed because of the severe weather, a debate is circulating on whether to follow the Irish league and have a January start to the season.

Whatever the merits of the case, this seems highly unlikely to happen.

The current objective of point-to-point racing, defined in the Mildmay-White report and endorsed by the Jockey Club five years ago, is: "to enable owners to race their horses, which have been properly hunted, against each other, and thereby entertain farmers and landowners, while raising money for the hunt."

That few participants or spectators of the sport would agree with this defined purpose is irrelevant. By far the largest voice in the administration of point-to-pointing is that of the Master of Foxhounds Association. While this remains the case, it is absurd to think that the MFA would organise meetings to disrupt hunting at the height of the season.

The point-to-point meeting is a major source of revenue for a hunt. There are probably no more than five or 6,000 all-weather enthusiasts in the whole of the country, yet on a warm spring Saturday, as many as 50 or 60,000 will attend the meetings.

Some of these will be hunting folk, but most will be locals on a family outing. Few of either would be present in January. The profit made is not proportional to how many attend but on how many attend over the fixed number necessary to defray the cost, so most early meetings would run at a loss.

Not withstanding this logic, there is one argument that scuppers those who want an earlier start, and with whom I have every sympathy.

The country is divided into 14 point-to-point areas. The total number of meetings held by staff of these in February is only four, with three holding no meetings at all.

For planning purposes, it is ludicrous that two adjacent areas are presently scheduled to hold 24 and eight meetings respectively.

If all areas were made approximately the same size and all had at least two meetings in February, so much slack would result in the programming that few meetings would ever be lost to the weather.

● All six point-to-point meetings scheduled for today are off. The East Cornwall may run on Wednesday, while the Cambridge Harriers, Oxford University and Wheatland meetings have been postponed until next Saturday. The new date for the Middleton is February 23, for which entries will stand. An end-of-season fixture on May 18 is being considered for the Haydon.

● Flat racing at Cagnes-sur-Mer was snowed off yesterday. Lord Huntingdon has declared Stylish Gent (Guy Guignard) for tomorrow's £5,128 Prix de Vallauris, but the meeting is subject to an inspection.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Plumpton, Hereford, Southwell.
TUESDAY: Towcester, Newton Abbot, Lingfield Park.
WEDNESDAY: Ayr, Worcester, Folkestone, Southwell.
THURSDAY: Sandown Park, Leicester, Taunton, Lingfield Park.
FRIDAY: Sandown Park, Edinburgh, Fakenham, Southwell.
SATURDAY: Chepstow, Newcastle, Windsor, Nottingham, Lingfield Park.

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Euro-200 index launched by ISE

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE International Stock Exchange is launching a pan-European share price index, combining the FT-SE 100 index of British shares with the Eurotrack 100 index of continental markets, which it started in October.

The ensuing FT-SE Eurotrack 200 will be launched officially on February 25, but will be available on the exchange's Topic screens from Monday.

The 200 index will be a continuous computerised real-time index, changing minute by minute in line with individual share price movements but it will be denominated in European currency units. The Eurotrack 100 index is denominated in marks, although German shares make up only about a quarter of the index.

The main purpose of the new index is to mirror as far as possible the monthly benchmark indices of European markets operated by Morgan Stanley Capital International and others, thereby providing a base for derivative options, futures and warrants business aimed at international portfolio managers.

Herschel Post, chairman of the exchange's trading markets board, said that, as more funds were legally able to use such futures and options, the index could be at the heart of the investment process.

An adjustment factor has been applied to the shares in the British index, bringing their combined initial weighting down from about half to 43 per cent, in line with the relative capitalisation of the whole market. This compares with 14 per cent for Germany and 13 per cent for France and bears little relation to the relative size of the economies.

Thorn launches Thames bid

By MARTIN WALLER

THORN EMI, the electronics and music publishing group, has launched a takeover bid for Thames Television, London's weekday independent television contractor, valuing it at a maximum of £148.9 million.

But the Thames board, with Thorn's support, has recommended shareholders not to accept the bid. Thorn itself says it is keen to keep an International Stock Exchange quote for Thames, although it is already assured of a 55.6 per cent stake.

Thorn has agreed to buy the 27.8 per cent holding of BET, the stricken industrial services group, to add to its own matching holding. BET, which has seen its share price collapse on concern over debt and trading prospects, will receive £34.5 million now and as much as £6.9 million eventually as deferred consideration. Thorn is known to have expressed an interest in paying about £5 a share a year ago for BET's stake, and observers say the current deal has been done at a fire sale price because of BET's problems.

Thames said on Thursday it was in talks with an unnamed party which could lead to a bid at between 250p and 300p a share. Thorn announced it was making the bid after reaching agreement with BET.

That agreement triggered the bid automatically under Takeover Panel rules. Both companies had been trying to find buyers for their Thames shares, which have plunged from a high of 547p a year ago, but with no success.

Thorn is now offering 250p cash a share initially and a maximum of 50p subsequently if certain conditions are fulfilled concerning the future share price of Thames and its net advertising revenue for calendar 1992. Thorn, however, says it believes Thames's future is best served by retaining a listing, while guaranteeing not to reduce its holding below 50 per cent until the start of 1994.

Frances Elliott, director of corporate affairs at Thorn, said: "We see Thames as an investment. We don't want to be a TV contractor. We haven't got the management skills. The ownership of the company is best not all in our hands." She said Thorn also had the flexibility to sell its holding after 1993 if the Thames share price warranted it.

The deal depends on the successful conclusion of talks with the Independent Television Commission, which regulates the sector, over undertakings it is requiring from Thorn. Ms Elliott said these were "technical, small and few" and were not expected to delay its conclusion.

BET denied the share deal was a fire sale. The group blames the government's delay in publishing the Broadcasting Bill, expected last summer but which only appeared in November, for holding up the disposal, during which time the Thames share price crashed. Neil Ryder, director of corporate affairs, said any earlier disposal had been blocked by the authorities.

Central to the shares' performance is the retention of Thames's right to broadcast in the forthcoming franchise round. Thames is thought to be one of the companies most likely to lose out because the attractions of the London weekday franchise have prompted a number of competitors.

Only this week, Carlton Communications, the film and television services group, recruited Nigel Walmsley, the managing director of Capital Radio, to head its own bid for an ITV franchise.

Thorn is issuing 13 million new shares by a placing through SG Warburg, its broker, at 625p to raise £80.4 million net to fund the offer. The maximum cash it will need for the first payment, if all existing shareholders accept, is £89 million. Its shares dipped 18p to 633p on the news.

The company is also forecasting a maintained final dividend of 21.5p for the current year to end-March. Thames says it will make £11.5 million pre-tax in calendar 1990 after exceptional redundancy costs of £7.6 million.

Colin Southgate, the Thorn chairman, gave a warning last month that profits for the current year would be lower than expected. The group has suffered from the weak dollar and harsh trading conditions in the retail and rental divisions, which include Rumbelows, Radio Rentals and DER.

Thames shares fell 20p to 271p, reflecting some disappointment at the terms on offer. There is scepticism in the market whether the further payments will be triggered. They are on a sliding scale, depending on the extent by which the share price exceeds 330p by December 13 and advertising revenue exceeds £241 million.

Thorn says regardless of the result of the franchise round, it still believes Thames has "significant value" because of its other assets, including studios, a backlog of programmes such as *Minder*, *Capital City* and *Rumpole of the Bailey*, and Reeves, the New York production company, and a 10 per cent holding in the Astra satellite system.



Deal in focus: Colin Southgate, chairman of Thorn, who has launched a bid for Thames

EC aid package dashes airline hopes

From PETER GUILFORD
IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, European commissioner for competition policy, has promised temporary measures to help airlines weather Gulf war costs.

The package offers sympathy rather than the full-scale relaxation of competition rules, as the industry had hoped.

Brussels will clear requests for fare changes more swiftly, and look more kindly on subsidies. Carriers facing a dramatic drop in demand may pool seating capacity under deals lasting no more than three months. They will also be guaranteed against losing landing rights when closing routes temporarily.

But Sir Leon told aviation officials in London yesterday: "The Community does not have the slightest intention of reviewing or delaying any of our liberalisation or competition policies in air transport."

A handful of national airlines and smaller charter companies pleaded last week with Sir Leon and Karel Van Miert, the transport commissioner, for a "parenthesis" in the EC's air liberalisation programme while the impact of the war continued.

Fears of Iraqi-inspired attacks on civilian aircraft forced airlines to fly at an average capacity of 36 per cent in the last week of January, against 58 per cent in the first week and 73 per cent a year ago. The changes will include:

- Fares: Sir Leon promises swifter clearance for changes to meet increased costs for oil, insurance and security, as well as falling demand.
- Sharing: Sir Leon will "consider sympathetically" any bid to share passengers on routes where business has slackened. But airlines may club together for no more than three months and cheaper competitors must not be "frozen out".
- Subsidies: Brussels will process requests for state assistance "rapidly".

Midland Bank to cut additional 680 jobs

By OUR CITY STAFF

MIDLAND Bank is to cut 680 jobs from its administrative and back office staff over the next six months. Last month, the bank revealed that it is to close 120 branches with the loss of 900 staff.

Both moves are part of a drive to restructure the bank and produce substantial cost savings. The overall aim is to reduce employment throughout the group by about 4,000. Midland says that it is "well on track" to achieve the target.

The pressure on Midland's board to bring costs more closely into line with income has intensified since the shelving last month of its plan for a progressive merger with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The latest job losses will be spread round the country, affecting card operations in Leicester, property services in London and Sheffield and data centres in London, Watford, Salford and Newcastle upon Tyne.

It is hoped that the job losses will be largely met by natural wastage, redeployment, voluntary retirement and redundancy.

Few compulsory redundancies are thought to be necessary.

Midland is expected to report a marginal loss for 1990 but its board is determined to restore profitability over the next year or two.

Like all of the clearers, the group is believed to be concerned about the growing incidence of company failure and bad debts in both the corporate and personal sectors.

The bank is seen as the weakest of the leading clearers. It is more directly exposed to corporate lending problems, brought on by the recession, and has a proportionately greater level of Third World debt on its books.

Its disastrous acquisition of Crocker, the American bank, left the group with Crocker's portfolio of Third World debt. Provisioning against this debt is at lower levels than other clearers.

Midland's balance sheet ratios are well above those laid down by international convention. Fuller provision would bring them close to the minimum levels.

The bank is working on strategies to cut out layers of non-profitable administrative staff, to make branches more clearly accountable for their profit, and to boost income from promising areas of business, such as personal financial services.

Though the proposal for closer links with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation are on the back burner, it is by no means dead.

Card changes, page 38

More than half power investors stay on

By OUR CITY STAFF

MORE than half the investors who bought shares in the oversubscribed flotation of the electricity distribution companies last year held on to them until the end of January.

The news pleased the government, but will infuriate companies left with large shareholder lists. In the case of Eastern, the largest of the 12, there were more than 750,000 investors on the register, 68 per cent of the original, at the end of last month.

Several of the companies have complained privately over the expense of keeping large numbers of investors informed. The latest figures available show that of the 8 million allocations made in December, 5 million were still on the list at the end of last month.

Inevitably, most of the shareholders who sold out had invested in companies that went to the highest premiums after trading started. Therefore, in the case of South Wales and Manweb, the smallest of the 12, about half the shareholder base has disappeared since the float.

Manweb, down 2p at 205p, is trading at twice the price the government put on it.

Snow keeps Levitt from court

ROGER Levitt and his counsel were rebuked for failing to attend the court at Bow Street because of the weather (Angela Mackay writes).

Sir David Hopkin, chief stipendiary magistrate, asked Fred Coford, counsel for the Serious Fraud Office, to locate both Mr Levitt and Jonathan Goldberg, QC, his counsel. Mr Goldberg offered to travel to Bow Street from his Putney home. The court was told Mr Levitt would have difficulty as he had abandoned his car in the snow and was at his home in Highgate, London.

Mr Levitt's solicitor had sent a fax message to the court saying its client would not be attending. Sir David said: "If there is a remand from this court, somebody will attend unless they obtain permission not to do so."

Mr Levitt, chairman of the Levitt Group, is charged with two counts of theft together worth £665,000 and had been remanded on bail of £500,000.

He was remanded to appear at Bow Street next Thursday.

Transcripts of Guerin conversation released

Ferranti alleges blackmail

By ANGELA MACKAY

LEGAL counsel for Ferranti International have released transcripts of taped conversations that they believe will demonstrate James Guerin, former deputy chairman of Ferranti, was being blackmailed by the company's former company lawyer for $2.75 million.

Ferranti's lawyers published the transcripts this week in preparation for a court hearing yesterday to consider the company's claim that the money, which has been seized by the US government, belonged to Ferranti and not to either Mr Guerin or William Clark, his former lawyer.

The British defence and electronics group had to sell assets worth £400 million on discovering a hole of £230 million in its balance sheet in September 1989. The company said it was caused by four bogus defence contracts negotiated by Mr Guerin, leading Ferranti to say in court filings this week that it had been the victim of "one of the largest swindles in history". The former deputy chairman has been ordered by a British court to pay $189 million to Ferranti but has only surrendered a fraction of this amount.

Mr Clark's counsel called Ferranti's move "prejudicial publicity" and asked for a postponement as soon as the matter was raised in Allentown county court, Pennsylvania, yesterday. Originally Mr Clark sued Mr Guerin for the return of the money which he said was a part of a severance agreement and Ferranti enjoined the action later.

The transcripts describe a conversation between Mr Guerin and Mr Clark where the latter talks about destroying several packages of damaging information that he had hidden around the world. Mr Guerin said, according to the transcripts: "The one thing I will look for you to do, Bill, after we close this out is (that) you look me in the eye and say, I've destroyed those packages." Mr Clarke then promised to take a trip "and I don't mean a vacation" and when he returned he promised to tell Mr Guerin that he had recovered the packages and destroyed them.

One year ago, Mr Guerin testified that Mr Clark had tried to extort $2.75 million, using 11 parcels of allegedly damaging information about him and his associates. Mr Guerin said the parcels purported to contain information about illegal sale of arms to South Africa, financial misdemeanours and cheating on government contracts.

Mr Clark's alleged demand coincided with Mr Guerin's negotiations in April 1989 with Ferranti's management to buy back a couple of subsidiaries that had been part of International Signal & Control, Mr Guerin's company which merged with Ferranti in 1987. Mr Guerin paid Mr Clark $1 million but after talks collapsed he refused to pay Mr Clark the balance.

Business Editor John Bell

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9855 (–0.0090)
German mark
2.8959 (–0.0031)
Exchange index
94.2 (–0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1760.2 (+4.0)
FT-SE 100
2245.2 (+1.5)
New York Dow Jones
2826.73 (+16.09)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
24296.08 (+191.65)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Cookson ..... 114p (+9p)
Trafalgar House ..... 213½p (+9p)
Charter Cons ..... 443½p (+9p)
Unitech ..... 186p (+15p)
Barclays ..... 392½p (+8p)
Cater Allen ..... 413½p (+11p)
Nat West ..... 306p (+10p)
Boddington ..... 142½p (+8p)
RM Douglas ..... 305p (+10p)
Meyer Intl ..... 393p (+7p)
Elsam ..... 127p (+10p)
Micro Focus ..... 845p (+15p)
Rank Org ..... 656½p (+12p)
Hawker Siddeley ..... 470p (+15p)
Tilbury Group ..... 537½p (+8p)
FALLS:
Legal & General ..... 386p (–10p)
Whitbread 'A' ..... 451½p (–8p)
THORN EMI ..... 632½p (–18p)
Reuters ..... 758p (–33p)
News Corp ..... 237p (–15p)

Closing Prices ... Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month interbank 13⁷/₁₆-13⅜%
3-month eligible bills 12⁹/₃₂-12⅛%
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 6⅝%*
3-month Treasury Bills 5.94-5.92%*
30-year bonds 98⅛-98²/₃₂*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.9855	£: $1.9875*
£: DM2.8959	$: DM1.4565*
£: SwFr2.4730	$: SwFr1.2438*
£: FFr9.8590	$: FFr4.9610*
£: Yen253.85	$: Yen127.82*
£: Index94.2	$: Index n/a
ECU £0.706337	SDR £0.729451
£: ECU1.415754	£: SDR1.370994

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $368 30 pm-$370.00
close $369.25-369.75 (£186.00-186.25)
New York:
Comex $372.05-372.55*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) $20.00 bbl ($20.00)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.82	2.47
Austria Sch	21.35	19.95
Belgium Fr	62.40	58.40
Canada $	2.415	2.265
Denmark Kr	11.67	10.97
Finland Mkk	7.42	6.97
France Fr	10.27	9.62
Germany Dm	3.03	2.83
Greece Dr	329	309
Hong Kong $	15.98	15.16
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.07
Italy Lira	2260	2140
Japan Yen	269	253
Netherlands Gld	3.405	3.195
Norway Kr	11.85	11.15
Portugal Esc	267	251
South Africa Rd	5.55	4.95
Spain Pta	189.50	176.50
Sweden Kr	11.38	10.70
Switzerland Fr	2.585	2.415
Turkey Lira	6400	5800
USA $	2.075	1.955
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	27.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.9 (December)

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Atlantis Resources	37
Aberforth Smlr (100p)	98
Brabant Res (155p)	134 –2
CMW Group (30p)	25
Castle Cairn (50p)	30
EFM Java Tst (50p)	38 +1
Eidos (100p)	58
Faber Prest (175p)	140
Foreign & Col	40
Invergordian (135p)	143
Levercrest (108p)	88
MMEC	3½
MMI (20p)	19
Malaysia Capital	25⅝
Midland Radio	94
Paramount (10p)	9½
Pelican Gp (50p)	25
Proteus Intl (84p)	89 +1
Seton Healthcare	153
St James Place (130p)	62
Smaller IT	60
Stand Platform (225p)	159
Tr Euro Gwth (100p)	85 +1
Trio Inv Tst	44
Utd Energy	1¼
Utd Uniform	88
Unichem (100p)	128 +1
Wig Tpe App	192 +2

● *See main prices page for Electricity shares*

RIGHTS ISSUES

Tesco N/P	42

(Issue price in brackets).

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey Nat	4,131	Cadbury	822	L&G	4,582	Royal Brk	472
Alld-Lyons	3,186	CU	770	Lloyds	1,452	Royal Ins	1,508
Anglian	302	Courtaulds	1,191	Lonrho	886	Sainsbury	936
ASDA	1,025	Daigety	714	Lucas	429	Scot & N	589
AB Foods	354	Enterprise	981	M&S	4,826	Sears	1,719
Argyll	1,316	Eurotunnel	871	Maxwell Cm	298	Severn Trnt	1,271
BAA	1,199	Fisons	1,113	MEPC	768	Shell	2,384
BET	4,382	Gen Acc	824	Midland	998	Smith & N	601
BTR	1,801	GEC	6,809	Nat West	4,893	SK Beech	1,408
BAT	2,584	Glaxo	2,223	N W Water	210	Sun Alnce	868
Barclays	5,177	Grand Met	3,862	P&O	689	Tarmac	6,816
Bass	433	GUS 'A'	310	Pearson	462	Tate Lyle	1,982
BICC	111	GRE	2,929	Pilkington	3,416	TSB	2,958
Bk Scotind	725	GKN	991	Prudential	3,791	Tesco	1,073
Blue Circle	1,012	Guinness	1,331	Racal	3,402	Thames Wtr	954
BOC	662	Hamm 'A'	65	Rk Hovis	961	Thorn EMI	2,112
Boots	541	Hanson	7,912	Rank	255	Trafalgar	2,682
Br Aero	1,027	H & C	2,252	RHC	250	THF	1,687
Br Airways	4,858	Hawker	193	Redland	482	Ultramar	948
Br Gas	8,100	Hillsdown	823	Read	257	Unilever	1,589
Br Petrol	4,288	ICI	1,420	Reuters	2,579	United Bis	709
Br Steel	3,288	Kingfisher	8,880	RMC Gp	458	Wellcome	173
Br Telecm	6,871	Lasmo	1,032	RTZ	1,556	Whitbrd	1,401
Bunmah Cst	485	Ladbroke	2,321	R-Royce	3,133	Wgn Teape	3,449
C&W	1,122	Land Sec	662	Rothsm 'B'	168	Willis Cor	521

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	606.7	0.9	5.7	0.6	6.2	0.5	9.0
(free)	116.0	0.9	5.7	0.5	6.1	0.5	9.0
EAFE	1044.2	1.2	6.4	0.7	4.9	0.8	9.7
(free)	107.3	1.2	6.4	0.6	4.7	0.8	9.7
Europe	624.1	0.6	4.8	0.6	4.9	0.3	8.1
(free)	134.9	0.6	4.7	0.3	4.5	0.3	7.9
Nth America	440.7	0.3	4.6	0.0	7.9	0.0	7.9
Nordic	1160.7	1.0	6.7	1.0	7.1	0.6	10.1
(free)	190.0	1.0	6.2	1.1	6.5	0.6	9.5
Pacific	2324.5	1.7	7.7	0.9	4.9	1.3	11.1
Far East	3373.5	1.7	7.9	0.9	4.9	1.4	11.3
Australia	236.8	-0.3	3.2	-0.4	5.3	-0.7	6.4
Austria	1269.7	-0.1	-2.9	0.0	-2.4	-0.4	0.1
Belgium	730.3	0.7	3.4	0.9	3.6	0.3	6.6
Canada	433.2	0.6	1.9	0.3	5.0	0.2	5.0
Denmark	1147.9	0.7	6.4	0.8	6.7	0.3	9.7
Finland	62.7	1.4	-2.5	1.3	-1.6	1.1	0.5
(free)	88.4	2.3	2.7	2.2	3.7	2.0	5.9
France	600.6	1.1	4.8	1.0	5.0	0.8	8.0
Germany	717.0	1.7	4.7	1.5	4.9	1.4	8.0
Hong Kong	2078.5	0.9	8.1	0.5	11.3	0.6	11.4
Italy	257.5	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.2	4.0
Japan	3541.2	1.8	8.0	1.0	4.6	1.4	11.3
Netherlands	745.2	0.8	1.1	0.6	1.2	0.4	4.2
New Zealand	68.8	-0.3	14.4	-0.3	15.4	-0.7	17.9
Norway	1084.1	-0.3	-2.7	-0.3	-2.7	-0.7	0.4
(free)	192.0	-0.7	-1.2	-0.6	-1.3	-1.0	1.9
Sing/Malay	1514.1	0.0	4.4	-0.3	8.1	-0.4	7.7
Spain	180.0	0.0	9.6	0.0	8.3	-0.3	13.0
Sweden	1275.5	1.4	12.1	1.4	12.4	1.1	15.6
(free)	182.9	2.1	10.2	2.1	10.6	1.8	13.7
Switzerland	756.0	0.5	7.1	0.7	7.4	0.1	10.4
(free)	113.7	0.3	5.8	0.4	6.1	-0.1	9.1
UK	672.5	0.1	5.2	0.1	5.2	-0.2	8.5
USA	400.0	0.3	4.8	0.0	8.1	0.0	8.1

(lc) Local currency.* *Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.*

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Lyon	460	64	71	82	5½	13	17
(*507)	500	35	45	57	18	28	32
	550	12	–	–	48	–	–
ASDA	110	19	24	25	2½	4	6½
(*126)	120	12	18	18	5½	8	8½
	130	6	12	14	12	13	16
Bass	900	100	120	148	13	22	28
(*959)	950	57	87	118	27	40	45
	1000	35	63	90	52	64	70
	1050	17	40	65	90	98	100
Boots	300	51	58	64	2	6	8
(*340)	330	28	38	44	8	14	17
	360	10	21	29	23	27	30
Br Airways	120	23	25	27	2½	6	8
(*132)	130	15	18	21	5	10	13
	140	10	13	16	12	16	17
BP	280	41	48	55	2½	6	8½
(*316)	330	26	35	41	7	13	16
	330	10	19	25	23	26	29
Br Steel	110	16	20	21	1½	4	6
(*122)	120	9	11½	12	4½	8	10
	130	4½	6½	–	11	16	–
C & W	390	116	125	–	1½	4	–
(*492)	420	87	99	110	4	8	12
	460	54	67	82	9	17	24
	500	28	42	59	26	35	38
CU	420	78	82	90	2½	6	9
(*489)	460	42	53	62	12	16	21
	500	14	28	40	35	35	38
Courtauld	300	55	57	69	2½	6½	9
(*338)	330	30	36	47	9	15	18
	360	13	20	28	25	30	32
GKN	280	43	47	50	6	11	13
(*324)	300	26	35	37	12	17	22
	330	11	21	24	30	35	39
Grand Met	600	108	128	140	3½	9	10
(*692)	650	66	90	105	11	19	22
	700	35	58	75	30	37	42
ICI	900	87	112	122	24	32	44
(*971)	950	52	80	93	42	52	64
	1000	25	–	–	75	–	–
Kingfisher	360	54	62	70	6	11	16
(*400)	390	30	46	52	13	19	26
	420	16	24	–	28	33	–
Ladbroke	200	36	40	44	2½	6½	9
(*228)	220	21	26	33	8	12	16
	240	11	16	23	18	24	26
Land Sec	460	103	110	–	3	9	–
(*549)	500	65	72	82	4	11	15
	550	27	35	50	16	25	28
M & S	200	47	–	–	1	–	–
(*240)	220	30	34	42	3½	7	9
	240	16	22	29	10	15	17
Sainsbury	280	64	68	–	1½	4	–
(*335)	300	46	52	60	3½	7	10
	330	24	33	40	10	17	19
	360	9	17	27	28	34	35
Shell	420	42	53	65	9	13	17
(*454)	460	14	31	40	28	32	35
	500	4	13	–	62	62	–
Smith Beech	600	84	103	117	6	13	17
(*666)	650	46	68	85	21	28	33
	700	21	42	60	45	50	55
Stanchrt	90	24	24	27	2	5	5
(*109)	100	14	17	20	5	8	10
	110	8	12	14	10	13	14
Trafalgar	180	41	42	48	4½	10	13
(*214)	200	26	29	37	11	20	22
	220	14	–	–	21	–	–
Ultramar	280	39	50	55	3½	7	10
(*311)	300	23	40	45	12	16	18
	330	11	22	29	27	31	33
Unilever	600	97	107	–	5	8	–
(*688)	650	57	68	92	14	22	23
	700	23	41	62	37	45	50
	750	7½	–	–	75	–	–
Utd Biscs	300	58	60	68	2½	4½	6
(*350)	330	29	39	47	9	11	14
	360	12	22	29	23	25	29

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BAA	300	47	60	65	1	5	7
(*348)	330	18	38	44	4	12	16
	360	3½	21	27	21	28	35
BAT Ind	550	100	112	127	1	9	11
(*645)	600	50	68	92	3	18	27
	650	15	37	50	20	42	47
	700	1½	–	–	55	–	–
BTR	300	48	52	60	1	6	8
(*347)	330	20	29	42	5	15	18
	360	5½	14	23	17	30	33
Brit Aero	500	58	69	82	1½	14	20
(*552)	550	15	36	54	11	35	40
	600	2	15	–	50	68	–
Brit Tele	260	42	52	58	1	2½	5
(*300)	280	22	36	42	1½	5	9½
	300	6	21	28	7	13	16
Cadbury	300	43	49	60	1	5	7½
(*348)	330	15	27	40	4	14	18
	360	4	12	23	21	30	32
Guinness	700	87	102	122	2	10	16
(*781)	750	40	65	90	6	24	30
	800	8	38	62	28	47	52
GEC	160	31	38	41	½	1	3
(*191)	180	11	21	25	1	5	9
	200	2	10	11	14	18	18
Hanson	180	26	43	45	1	2	3½
(*215)	200	16	26	30	1	5	8
	220	2¾	13	19	8	12½	16
LASMO	300	68	73	80	2	4	7
(*362)	330	40	47	58	2	11	14
	360	14	28	40	12	22	27
P & O	460	67	77	82	2	13	15
(*523)	500	27	44	54	5	25	30
	550	4	19	30	35	54	57
Pilkington	160	12	22	24	3	8	13
(*169)	180	3	11	14	13	19	25
	200	1¼	5½	8	34	34	40

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Prudential	180	35	40	43	1	2	5
(*215)	200	15	22	28	1	6	10
	220	3	9½	17	8	17	19
Racal	160	22	31	34	1½	5¼	8
(*180)	180	6	18	23	5	12	16
	200	1½	9	15	22	26	28
RTZ	420	54	61	75	1½	13	16
(*471)	460	16	35	50	7	28	32
	500	4	18	31	33	51	53
Scot & Newc	300	88	98	–	1½	2	–
(*384)	330	58	70	77	2	3	6
	350	38	55	53	3	9	14
	390	6	26	32	13	22	27
Tesco	214	28	34	41	1	4	5
(*241)	233	9½	19	27	3	8	10
	253	1	9½	16	13	18	21
Thames W	280	21	34	38	2½	8	12
(*299)	300	8	23	27	7	13	20
	330	2½	9	13	34	34	39
Water Pk	2300	730	–	–	10	–	–
(*2988)	2350	680	–	–	10	–	–
	2400	630	–	–	10	–	–
Lucas	130	16	19	26	1½	7	8
(*141)	140	7	13	20	5	9	12
	160	1½	6½	11	20	23	24

	Series	Calls Feb	Apr	Jul	Puts Feb	Apr	Jul
CU	420	78	82	90	2½	6	9
(*489)	460	42	53	62	12	16	21
	500	14	28	40	35	35	38
Courtauld	300	55	57	69	2½	6½	9
(*338)	330	30	36	47	9	15	18
	360	13	20	28	25	30	32
GKN	280	43	47	50	6	11	13
(*324)	300	26	35	37	12	17	22
	330	11	21	24	30	35	39
Grand Met	600	108	128	140	3½	9	10
(*692)	650	66	90	105	11	19	22
	700	35	58	75	30	37	42
ICI	900	87	112	122	24	32	44
(*971)	950	52	80	93	42	52	64
	1000	25	–	–	75	–	–
Kingfisher	360	54	62	70	6	11	16
(*400)	390	30	46	52	13	19	26
	420	16	24	–	28	33	–
Ladbroke	200	36	40	44	2½	6½	9
(*228)	220	21	26	33	8	12	16
	240	11	16

Saab plans to close Swedish factory

SAAB Automobile, the joint venture company owned by Saab-Scania and General Motors, confirmed that it is planning to close its car plant in Malmö, Sweden.

The closure of the plant, which opened only in 1989, comes after a SwKr3.25 billion (£295 million) loss for the last year. The Malmö plant has an annual output worth more than £200 million.

Falling sales were one of the reasons for the loss, with turnover falling 5 per cent to SwKr14.7 billion. The company achieves about 70 per cent of its sales outside Sweden, particularly in America, where the car market is in recession.

Saab-Scania, however, said the group as a whole had last year increased profits substantially compared with 1989 earnings of SwKr1.6 billion. There is aSwKr 1.39 billion extraordinary charge to cover the write-off of the Malmö factory.

Souza Cruz falls to £24.3m

Souza Cruz, the 75 per cent-owned Brazilian subsidiary of BAT Industries, unveiled a substantial decline in full-year profits after lower investment income and tobacco losses as margins came under pressure.

The group, one of Brazil's biggest companies, made 10.7 billion cruzeiros (£24.3 million) net profit in the year to end-December, against Cruz 19 billion. Operating expenses rose from Cruz2.52 billion to Cruz3.42 billion. Financial income rose from Cruz6.85 billion to Cruz7.06 billion. The total dividend per thousand shares is reduced from Cruz26,999 to Cruz20,052.

Companhia De Cigarros Souza Cruz, the tobacco company, suffered a loss of Cruz2.11 billion, against profits of Cruz6.06 billion, while profits from the paper and pulp division slipped from Cruz4.55 billion to Cruz3.78 billion.

Oceonics edges up to £1.15m

Oceonics Group, the marine surveying and positioning group, lifted pre-tax profits from £1.01 million to £1.15 million in the six months to end-September, in spite of a decline in turnover from £16.6 million to £12.4 million.

Earnings per share jump to 0.6p (0.2p). There is no interim dividend. Net interest payments increased from £54,000 to £249,000. Shares were unchanged at 11p.

Intervention by central banks helps lift dollar

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

CONCERTED central bank intervention to support the dollar against the mark lifted the American currency well clear of the record low of DM1.4467 touched on Thursday but failed to establish it above DM1.46.

Sterling slipped back 0.9 cents to $1.9855 in London.

The Federal Reserve Bank in New York and the Bank of Canada bought dollars overnight and the dollar firmed against the yen, in Far East trading. In the morning, at least ten European central banks bought dollars, mostly against marks.

The European banks, intervening for the third day this week, lifted the dollar from DM1.4570 to DM1.4595 by the opening in New York when the Federal Reserve Bank started another round of buying at above DM1.4610.

This second round brought no sustained further rise, however, and by late afternoon in London the dollar had settled back to DM1.4585. That compares with a New York close of DM1.4682 a week earlier.

Prominent City economists urged Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to climb out of his present impasse and restore flexibility to economic policy (writes Colin Narbrough).

At the "teenage scribblers" conference in London, the economists agreed on the nature of the Chancellor's dilemma, but the solutions suggested were varied.

Although the economic indicators are signalling that interest rates should be cut immediately, the government's commitment to the European exchange rate mechanism at a central rate of DM2.95 is preventing a base rate cut.

Tim Congdon, managing director of Lombard Street Research, the economic consultant, suggested the government opt out of the ERM and cut base rates by two percentage points to prevent recession becoming a depression.

Gordon Pepper, director of the Centre for Financial Markets at City University, suggested the Chancellor reaffirm the government's long-term commitment to ERM, while acknowledging the monetary aggregates could signal that monetary policy was too tight at a time when sterling was at the bottom of the ERM. In such circumstances there would be a case for renegotiating the level of sterling within the parity grid.

Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS-Phillips & Drew, said he believed Mr Lamont's preferred policy option this year will be "to do nothing", implying a readiness to rely on automatic fiscal and monetary stabilisers for recovery, even though the scope for the economy righting itself may be weak or be superseded by world recession and monetary crunch.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at Midland Montagu, who expects a slight fiscal relaxation in the Budget, believes base rates could be cut to 11 per cent by the summer. He urged the Chancellor to focus on the pound's "real" ERM floor of DM2.78, instead of the sterling-peseta rate.

Ministry man for Docklands



ERIC Sorensen, above, a senior Whitehall civil servant, is to be chief executive of the London Docklands Development Corporation. Mr Sorensen, aged 48, is deputy secretary in the housing division at the environment department. He has worked closely with Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, setting up the LDDC and other urban development corporations.



Richard Boxall, left, will retire and Ian Maclellan is to continue managing Ibstock

Ibstock Johnsen loses its second MD in three years

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

IBSTOCK Johnsen, the bricks and wood pulp group, has lost its second managing director in three years. Richard Boxall, who was appointed joint managing director with Ian Maclellan in July 1988, has retired five years early at the age of 55.

Mr Boxall will receive a compensation payment which is likely to be less than £350,000. He had a three-year contract. Mr Boxall and Mr Maclellan were appointed to head the group after Peter Woodman resigned as managing director over a disagreement about the company's policy. He received £350,000 compensation.

After Mr Boxall's retirement, Mr Maclellan will become group managing director. John Milham, managing director of Ibstock Building Products, will join the main Ibstock Johnsen board and Peter Aspden, head of group finance, becomes finance director.

A spokesman for the group said there was no disagreement between Mr Boxall and the company. Mr Boxall had been in charge of the group's American operations and had recently moved back to Britain. He had been with the group for 23 years and had been a main board director for 13 years. The spokesman said Mr Boxall's departure had nothing to do with the 4.9 per cent stake that Bowater Industries holds in Ibstock.

A statement from Ibstock said: "Throughout his years of service, Mr Boxall has made an impressive, valuable and welcome contribution to the development of the company. We wish him and his family happiness for the future."

Telfos talks to possible bidders

By MARTIN BARROW

TELFOS Holdings, the railway engineer, is in talks with other possible bidders after the withdrawal of William Cook's £36 million offer.

The talks are likely to involve Jenbacher Werke, the Austrian rolling stock company, which has made public its interest in Telfos and is believed to own a small stake.

Jenbacher is interested in the company's east European links, particularly in Hungary. A Telfos subsidiary in Austria has a 51 per cent stake in Hungary's Ganz-Hunslet.

However, a Jenbacher bid may meet opposition from William Cook, which has a 7 per cent stake in Telfos. William Cook allowed its bid to lapse after Price Waterhouse, Telfos's auditor, advised the company to increase provisions in 1990 by £13 million to £22 million and estimated the company's pre-tax losses for the year at £300,000, compared with expectations of £5 million profits.

Andrew Cook, chairman of William Cook, said he was prepared to "resurrect our discussions" if the two sides could agree "a realistic evaluation of Telfos's current and future position". Telfos shares rose 5p to 71p, valuing the company at £22.42 million. Price Waterhouse estimated net assets attributable to Telfos shareholders of £9.2 million or 29p a share.

Most provisions relate to non-core investments made by Telfos's previous management, and the company argues that a £100 million order book underpinned its value. Talks are being held with its main bankers to ensure sufficient working capital is available until its future is secured.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Geevor seeks £2m after repaying loan

GEEVOR, the troubled mining group, is urgently seeking £2 million to £3 million of new finance after repaying a £1.1 million loan from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The group is hoping to gain breathing space by raising £750,000 through the issue of a convertible loan note next week. Until the outcome is known, the Mainband Colliery in Cumbria has been placed on care and maintenance and the 28 employees have received redundancy notices. The colliery was due for £300,000 investment.

Geevor is in discussions with the four main clearing banks, as well as Standard Chartered, in an attempt to raise finance. Richard Osmond of Smith New Court Corporate Finance, the group's financial adviser, said he was optimistic that the money would be raised but added that the group needs cash "very very soon".

Sandell goes into the red

SANDELL Group, the Unlisted Securities Market office refurbishment company, fell into losses in the year to end-September. Sandell blamed the state of the construction industry and the general economic climate. There will be no dividend. Pre-tax losses were £137,000, against a pre-tax profit of £76,000 last time. Turnover rose from £3.81 million to £4.18 million. The loss per share was 4.4p.

Elbief holds dividend

ELBIEF, the Birmingham manufacturer of handbag and photograph frames, clocks and mirrors, lifted pre-tax profits to £84,000 in the six months to end-October (£70,000). Turnover climbed to £2.48 million (£2.3 million). Earnings per share rise to 0.043p (0.036p). The interim dividend remains 0.181p. The company sounded an uncertain note on its full year prospects. The shares firmed 2p to 15p.

Willaire profits slip

WILLAIRE Group, the purification equipment to television tubes company, made pre-tax profits of £1 million (£1.34 million) on sales of £19 million (£11.7 million) in the six months to end-October. Earnings per share were 0.3p (0.8p).

There was an extraordinary charge of £747,000 (£74,000) for the closure costs of discontinued activities and the write-down in the value of an engineering project. Anthony Roscoe, the group's chairman, said that the reduction in pre-tax profitability was due to the higher level of interest charges, caused by increased working capital requirements of the enlarged group, and lower profitability within electronics.

Vita in talks for Dutch buy

BRITISH Vita, the polymer group, announced yesterday that it was engaged in negotiations to acquire the foam and mattress division of Vredestein, a Netherlands company. The division has annual sales of about £16 million, and its main outlets are the Dutch and the German markets. The acquisition will be made through British Vita's Dutch subsidiary, Vita Interfoam.

Keith Young sold for £2m

PILKINGTON, the glass group, has sold Keith Young (Insulation), its structural insulation merchanting business, to Sheffield Insulations Group, the insulation and fire protection distributor, for £2 million. Pilkington said that the divestment of Keith Young is part of the planned rationalisation of the Pilkington Insulation Division's merchanting operation.

US acquisition by JFB

JOHNSON & Firth Brown, the specialist metals and enginering group, has expanded into the American aerospace market by acquiring the net assets of the Monroe Forgings business, previously owned by United Dominion Industries, for $21 million (£10.5 million).

Monroe, of Rochester, New York, produces seamless rolled rings and forgings for the aerospace, nuclear and bearing industries. Monroe made pre-tax profits $1.2 million in the year to end-December 1990, on sales of $27.9 million. Firth Rixson, a wholly-owned subsidiary, was formed to effect the acquisition, which was funded by JFB's own cash resources and $12 million American borrowings.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Chge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
74	23	ABB Benair	25	–	–	–	–	–
112	38	ABD	–	–	–	–	–	25
91	15	ATA Selection	19	25	–	3.3p	22.0	36
326	72	Aberdeen Pet	315	–	–	–	–	28.0
118	24	Aberdeen Stk Hse	32	35	–	–	–	47.2
169	45	Acal	169	174	–	6p	3.9	9.3
20	6	Acorn Comp	10	20	–	–	–	4.0
155	73	Aircraft	137	155	–	7.5	5.9	16.2
192	102	Alan Paul	108	118	–	4.1	3.8	10.8
28	20	Allanfalrs	25	–	–	–	–	2.1
78	78	Allen	86	94	–	6.4	6.8	6.2
141	109	Allied Inv	105	112	–	6.0	5.5	10.9
8	2	Alt Leisure	3	5	+½	Nil	Nil	8.0
18	15	Amberley Gp	17	18	–	2.5	10.8	5.8
120	120	Amer Bus Sys	116	122	–	3.5	2.9	5.7
15	13	Anglo Pac Res	13	15	–	–	–	24.2
13	6	Apollo Watch Prods	13	15	–	0.7	7.4	5.2
135	69	Argo Holographic	135	165	–	–	–	–
61	61	Ashtead	58	61	–	5.6	6.1	2.9
28	28	Aspen Comms	24	28	+4	10.8p	12.6	2.8
20	20	Asprey	20	35	–	5.8	11.8	16.4
3	3	Assoc Energy	–	–	–	–	–	–
45	45	Assoc Ferners	–	–	–	–	–	–
123	123	Assoc Nursing	130	136	–	4.0	3.0	15.4
11	11	Atlantic Tec	11	15	–	–	–	23.6
420	420	Atlas Equipment	395	440	–	22.0	5.4	15.4
134	134	Audit Control	–	–	–	6.4	11.4	–
18	18	Automotor	–	–	–	0.7	11.1	15.7
14	14	BBB Dodge	–	–	–	2.8p	10.7	2.7
7	7	BCE	–	–	–	–	–	–
23	23	BLP Group	–	–	–	0.4	1.9	9.8
50	50	BWD	–	–	–	5.0	13.2	5.6
28	28	Bamerco	–	–	–	–	–	–
49	49	Barkerhse	–	–	–	4.9	10.0	4.1
23	23	Barland (William)	–	–	–	–	–	8.6
38	38	Barnwell Chems	–	–	–	3.0	9.1	6.6
70	70	Barry Bath & Balds	–	–	–	–	–	14.5
55	55	Baxter Cons Prods	–	–	–	6.7	5.6	19.2
65	65	Beaver Sheltercare	–	–	–	6.3	7.4	9.7
15	15	Bg Industries	–	–	–	–	–	28.5
7	7	Bigdan	–	–	–	–	–	–
155	155	Bolckow Motors	–	–	–	10.5	15.9	4.7
21	21	Blooding Toys	–	–	–	2.8	20.1	7.2
49	49	Border TV	–	–	–	2.8	11.7	9.4
116	116	Borland	–	–	–	–	–	–
48	48	Bowmore Ind	–	–	–	7.8	8.6	8.8
97	97	W Shepherd Bk	–	–	–	–	–	–
54	54	Brent Int	–	–	–	–	–	13.7
116	116	Brompton Hdgs	–	–	–	4.6	6.6	10.4
7	7	Bula Resources	–	–	+¼	–	–	68.8
227	227	Business Tech	–	–	–	5.1	2.2	6.1
5	5	CCS Gp	–	–	–	–	–	–
131	131	CML Micro	–	–	–	3.1	2.4	8.5
6	6	CPU Comp	–	–	–	1.2	11.1	10.0
158	158	Cable & Regional	–	–	–	4.3	2.7	25.8
168	168	Cadis Gp	–	–	–	4.5	2.8	25.8
72	72	Camon Pack	–	–	–	1.5p	–	–
42	42	Camsdy Bros	–	–	–	2.5	5.9	7.3
77	77	Castle Comm	–	–	–	11.5	–	–
43	43	Castrol Motor	–	–	–	4.3	–	–
24	24	Chartwell	–	–	–	0.3	–	–
46	46	Chelsea Man	–	–	–	4.6	10.5	–
94	94	Chisholm Group	–	–	–	6.1	9.4	6.1
15	15	Cimarron	–	–	–	–	–	–
44	44	Clarkes Pkge	–	–	–	–	–	–
25	25	Clifton Lyons	–	–	–	–	–	–
212	212	Clinic Man	–	–	–	4.1	5.2	–
18	18	Global	19	22	–	–	–	10.6
228	175	Great Southern	180	190	–	11.2	6.7	12.8
148	85	Green (Ernest)	118	129	–	5.3	5.1	4.4
7	4½	Greenacre	3½	5	–	0.3	6.7	16.1
248	6	Greenwich Comms	6	8	–	–	–	–
18	18	Guestmoore	18	18	–	0.7	2.5	26.7
152	148	Hadleigh Inds	145	150	–	8.3	5.5	7.8
118	16	Hall's Homes	13	18	–	–	–	–
27	27	Hampden Homecare	27	28	–	1.1	4.2	9.5
121	78	Handley Walker	75	80	–	10.7	13.7	3.8
8	8	Harcourt	7	10	–	–	–	–
46	11	Harmony Leisure	14	17	–	–	–	–
46	46	Hawthorn Leslie	46	50	–	–	–	2.9
9	9	Headland Gp	–	–	–	–	–	–
134	44	Heavitree	130	135	–	4.1	1.9	23.5
185	185	Ilo 'A' LV	168	210	–	4.1	2.2	19.7
16	16	Heritage	16	18	–	–	–	–
118	75	Hewetson	77	82	–	6.0	8.6	4.5
22	22	Hey & Croft	22	25	–	–	–	4.5
8	8	Hickins	8	9	–	–	–	8.5
7	7	Hobson	7	9	–	–	–	–
75	75	Hodders Tech	79	80	–	8.0	10.7	13.5
14	14	Honeysuckle Gp	13	20	–	–	–	–
248	248	Hornby	230	270	–	10.6	4.4	8.7
7	4	Hughes Food	7	8	–	–	–	1.8
115	85	Humberoak Tech	153	165	–	3.3	2.4	10.0
117	85	HUSTEN	117	125	–	3.6	4.2	8.5
8	8	Ibis Comm & Data	10	13½	–	–	–	–
22	22	Ilex Hldgs	22	25	–	2.7	11.7	2.2
18	18	Image Storage	18	20	–	–	–	–
5	5	Imtec	4½	6	–	–	–	–
5	5	Impetus Gp	5	6	–	–	–	–
72	72	Inchcape Express	72	80	–	11.2	11.9	3.6
8	8	Ind Comms & Data	10	17½	–	–	–	–
225	225	Ind Mech	225	250	–	6.0	3.7	6.0
41	41	IPA Inc	45	55	–	4.7	9.8	8.5
158	158	Lambert	163	165	–	14.1	7.9	10.9
36	36	Laser Scan	36	38	–	–	–	26.1
42	42	LDM's Plc	42	45	–	1.5	3.4	21.3
48	48	LGW	48	52	–	6.6	8.5	5.7
140	140	Lincat	140	150	–	–	–	6.7
8	8	Lincoln Hse	8	10	–	–	–	–
115	115	Lon & Cyclorama	115	125	–	9.1	7.8	4.9
36	36	Lon Forfaiting	36	40	–	3.1	10.3	4.6
62	62	M&I Comp	62	65	–	4.6	7.4	18.5
113	113	MTL Instruments	113	120	–	3.5	3.0	10.7
38	38	Magnetic Materials	38	40	–	4.0	13.1	6.8
9	9	March Gp	11	15	–	–	–	–
3	3	Marylebone	3	4	–	–	–	2.2
3	3	Maxwell	3	4	–	–	–	–
23	23	Maybom	23	25	–	2.1	24.3	–
150	150	Mercer Dunn	150	200	–	9.2	4.6	5.1
12	12	Merchant Mard Bd	12	15	–	–	–	–
38	38	Merrydown Wine	38	40	–	2.1	2.7	20.6
158	158	Metal Bulletin	158	168	–	8.4	7.8	11.1
155	155	Metsec	155	165	–	8.2	5.2	6.1
157	157	Micropos	157	162	–	8.4	5.4	13.6
15	15	Micrologic	15	20	–	0.3	1.8	5.4
91	91	Midland Scot Res	91	97	–	–	–	–
50	50	Mills Archy	52	57	–	–	–	–
7	7	Minoil	7	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	New England Props	13	15	–	–	–	15.2
130	130	Do 10%	130	140	–	–	–	–
21	21	Norbrat	21	25	–	–	–	–
11	11	Northumbrian Fire	11	13	–	–	–	–
74	74	Octamerics	74	80	–	–	–	–
77	77	Osborne & Little	77	82	–	2.7	3.5	–
85	85	PDT	85	90	–	6.0	6.4	–
7	7	Paul	7	8	–	–	–	–
45	45	Pacer Systems	45	50	–	–	–	–
11	9	Paramount	11	13	–	–	–	–
7	7	Pentalectrics	7	9	–	–	–	–
152	152	Peoplebus	149	157	–	10.1	6.7	12.6
157	157	Pete Group	157	162	–	8.7	11.2	16.7
104	104	Phil Pet	104	108	–	–	–	–
104	104	Plasmec	104	108	–	6.7	11.2	8.7
6	6	Plexus	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Porth Gp	6	8	–	–	–	–
4	4	Power	4	5	+½	–	–	–
79	79	Prem Leisure	79	83	–	6.6	7.9	14.1
5	5	Property Trust	5	6	–	–	–	–
54	54	Psion	54	58	–	–	–	14.1
57	57	Quagath	57	60	–	–	–	6.7
5	5	RKF	5	6	–	–	–	–
6	6	RMT Gp	6	8	–	–	–	–
165	165	Radio City 'A'	160	170	–	14.0	8.5	7.6
115	115	Radio Clyde	115	120	–	11.0	9.2	10.3
42	42	Radius	42	45	–	3.7	8.8	11.1
140	140	Ramsay Gil	140	150	–	13.2	9.4	12.3
46	46	Rankin	46	50	–	4.0	8.7	–
140	140	Rapicare Bros	140	150	–	13.2	9.4	4.1
158	158	Real Time Control	158	168	–	7.8	4.9	25.3
14	14	Regal Hotels	14	16	–	–	–	–
158	158	Regina Resrts	158	168	–	7.8	4.9	25.3
160	160	Reliance Sec	160	170	–	8.1	5.1	10.5
5	5	Reliant Gp	5	6	–	–	–	–
6	6	Rotogravure	6	8	–	–	–	–
4	4	Rsd	4	5	–	–	–	–
4	4	Rockwood	4	5	–	–	–	–
65	65	Rotaid	65	70	–	3.3	5.1	10.9
70	70	RPS Group	70	75	+1	4.0	5.7	21.0
15	15	SSP Ind	15	20	–	1.4	9.3	4.6
11	11	SPS Consultancy	11	15	–	–	–	11.5
42	42	Sancell	42	45	–	3.0	6.7	15.5
37	37	Sanders Soney	37	40	–	2.5	6.8	13.1
5	5	Sanyo	5	6	–	–	–	–
6	6	Scot Hamblin	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Sircon	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Scot Archives	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Select Tele	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Semi Circuits	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Shuttlecock-Reeve	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Simpson Jones	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Smiths (Harold)	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Smiths Ind	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Smiths Comp	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Sherwood Group	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Sircon	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Smurfit Packs	6	8	–	–	–	–
6	6	Surfcoat	6	8	–	–	–	–

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 94.2 (day's range 94.2-94.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 8	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.9650-1.9670	1.9650-1.9660	1.14-1.12pr	3.18-3.15pr
Montrl	2.2390-2.3043	2.2990-2.3032	0.58-0.50pr	1.14-1.04pr
Amstrdm	3.2614-3.2706	3.2614-3.2650	1¼-1¼pr	3¼-3pr
Brussels	59.45-59.79	59.47-59.70	16-16pr	49-47pr
Copnhgn	11.1279-11.1613	11.1369-11.1613	3¼-2¾pr	8¼-7¾pr
Dublin	1.0695-1.0925	1.0910-1.0920	25-19pr	59-50pr
Frankft	2.8941-2.9030	2.8941-2.8978	1¼-1pr	3-2¾pr
Lisbon	254.80-256.00	254.87-256.00	13-35dis	93-145dis
Madrid	181.53-182.61	181.93-182.61	3-11dis	44-55dis
Milan	2175.06-2181.73	2176.55-2179.84	3-1pr	5-3pr
Oslo	11.3205-11.3569	11.3304-11.3569	3-2¼pr	6¾-6¼pr
Paris	9.8516-9.8953	9.8516-9.8984	3¼-3pr	7¾-7¼pr
Stckhlm	10.8659-10.8932	10.8679-10.8932	1¼-¾pr	3¼-2¾pr
Tokyo	253.68-254.93	253.68-254.01	1¼-1pr	3¾-3¼pr
Vienna	20.3307-20.3883	20.3582-20.3883	7¾-6¾pr	20¼-18pr
Zurich	2.4713-2.4766	2.4713-2.4746	1¼-1pr	3¼-3pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = dis.*

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 14 Finance Hse 14

Discount Market Loans: O/night High: 15 Low 14 Week fixed: 14½

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buying: 2 mth 13⅛ ; 3 mth 12⅞ . Selling: 2 mth 13 ; 3 mth: 12⅝ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	13¹¹/¹⁶-13⅜	13¼-13⅜	13⅜-12⅝	12⅝-12⅜	
Trade Bills (Dis):	14⅜	13¾	13⅛-12	12-11⅝	
Interbank:	14-13⅝	13¾-13⅝	13⅜-13⅛	12⅝-12⅜	12⅛-11⅝
(Overnight: open 14¾, close 15¼)					
Local Authority Depts:	14	n/a	13½	12¾	12¾
Sterling CDs:	13⅛-12⅝	13¾-13⅜	13⅜-13⅛	12⅝-12⅜	12¼-12⅛
Dollar CDs:	6.45-6.40	6.55-6.50	6.55-6.50	6.55-6.50	6.75-6.70
Building Society CDs:	14-13¾	13¾-13½	13¼-13¾	13-12¾	12¾-12⅝

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6¾-6¾	6¾-6¾	6¾-6¾	6¾-6¾	6¾-6½
Deutschemark:	8¼-8¼	8¼-8¼	9¹/¹⁶-8¹⁵/¹⁶	8¼-8	8¼-7¾
French Franc:	9¼-9	9¼-9⅛	10-9¾	10¹/¹⁶-9¾	10-9
Swiss Franc:	8¼-7¾	8¼-7¾	8¼-7¾	7¾-7½	8-7
Yen:	8-7¾	8-7¾	8¼-8	7¾-7¾	7¼-6¾

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS *(Gold & Cy)*

Bullion: Open $368.40-368.80 Close: $368.25-368.75 High: $370.25-370.75 Low: $367.75-368.25 Krugerrand: $368.00-368.00 (£186.00-186.00)

Sovereigns: Old $94.00-95.00 (£48.75-47.75) New $86.00-88.00 (£43.75-44.75)

Platinum: $385.85 (£194.20) Silver: $3.83 (£1.925) Palladium: $86.25 (£43.40)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	n/a
Australia dollar	2.5416-2.5462
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.835-0.845
Finland markka	7.02-7.08
Greece drachma	308.15-311.85
Hong Kong dollar	15.4750-15.4849
India rupee	38.98-87.38
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.3376-5.3444
Mexico peso	5875-5975
New Zealand dollar	3.3083-3.3156
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.3643-3.4001
S Africa rand (fin)	6.1934-6.2948
S Africa rand (com)	6.0061-6.0167
U A E dirham	n/a

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.8200-1.8215
Singapore	1.7100-1.7120
Malaysia	2.6890-2.6910
Australia	1.2804-1.2820
Canada	1.1580-1.1590
Finland	5.4670-5.4720
Norway	5.7150-5.7200
Denmark	5.8040-5.8090
W Germany	1.4580-1.4590
Switzerland	1.2460-1.2467
Netherlands	1.8440-1.8450
France	4.9700-4.9750
Japan	127.90-128.00
Italy	1096.5-1097.5
Belgium (Com)	30.02-30.07
Hong Kong	7.7960-7.7970
Portugal	128.55-128.75
Spain	91.02-91.72
Austria	10.23-10.25

TREASURY BILLS: Applics: £958 m allotted: £250m. Bids £96.87 % received 21%; Last week: £96.79 % received: 28%, Avge rate: £12.5247% last wk £12.5363%; Next week: £350m replace £n/a.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Mar 91	2276.0	2296.0	2272.0	2284.0	5089
Previous open interest: 31475	Jun 91	2294.0	2325.0	2318.0	2324.6	413
	Sep 91	2350.0	2350.0	2350.0	2352.0	40
Three Month Sterling	Mar 91	87.07	87.18	87.04	87.12	17552
Previous open interest: 142005	Jun 91	86.35	86.45	86.33	86.42	9334
	Sep 91	85.97	86.07	85.97	86.05	1171
Three Month Eurodollar	Mar 91	93.28	93.29	93.26	93.29	1533
Previous open interest: 39859	Jun 91	93.26	93.40	93.36	93.39	958
Three Month Euro DM	Mar 91	90.94	90.94	90.88	90.91	5988
Previous open interest: 90229	Jun 91	91.18	91.16	91.09	91.14	6086
US Treasury Bond	Mar 91	97-20	98-02	97-19	97-30	1698
Previous open interest: 7098	Jun 91				97-13	0
Long Gilt	Mar 91	92-16	92-31	92-10	92-17	9824
Previous open interest: 43041	Jun 91	93-01	93-05	93-01	93-02	121
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 91	96.88	96.88	96.70	96.86	83
Previous open interest: 712	Jun 91				97.14	0
German Govt Bond	Mar 91	85.11	85.28	84.78	85.14	40777
Previous open interest: 102783	Jun 91	85.05	85.35	84.80	85.26	7150
Three month ECU	Mar 91				90.06	0
Previous open interest: 2018	Jun 91	90.33	90.38	90.33	90.35	120

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Chge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
134	99	Alliance	104	104	–	6.7	4.7	30.0
183	119	Amer Trust	128	130	–	6.1	4.4	27.1
317p	207	Anly & O'Neill	207	220	–	7.7	3.3	34.0
98	91	Anglo Scot Inv Tst	93	97	–	6.0	6.7	19.8
91	91	B2W Core	91	97

هكذا من الأصل

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c:						
Typical	3.50	3.50	2.80	none/none	7 day	—
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	10.06	10.06	8.05	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	9.88	9.88	7.88	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	9.35	9.35	7.48	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Branch
"	9.40	9.40	7.52	2,500-no max	6 mth	Local Branch
Midland	9.70	9.70	7.76	10,000-no max	1 mth	071-260 2605
" " "	9.70	9.70	7.76	10,000-no max	3 mth	071-260 2605
NatWest	9.75	9.75	7.80	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" " "	9.63	9.63	7.70	10,000-24,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	9.47	9.90	7.92	2,500‡	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	8.75	9.04	7.23	2,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	6.20	6.40	5.12	2,500‡	none	071 626 6543
Girobank	8.00	8.00	6.40	1,000‡	none	051 966 2075
Lloyds HICA	5.50	5.80	4.50	500‡	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	8.44	8.62	6.90	2,000‡	none	—
NatWest Special Reserve	8.00	8.24	6.59	500‡	none	071-374 3374
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	8.95	9.26	7.41	2,500	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank HICA	8.25	8.25	6.60	2,000‡	none	071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 p/o	none	—
Best buy — largest socs:						
Nationwide Ang	9.00	9.00	7.20	1 min	none	—
Portman	9.86	9.86	7.89	500 min	none	—
Cheltenham & Gl	11.03	11.03	8.83	2,500 min	none	—
Yorkshire	11.00	11.00	8.80	10,000 min	90 day	—
Bristol & West	12.00	12.00	9.60	25,000 min	1 year	—
Best buy — all socs:						
Holnsedale Best	10.40	10.40	8.32	500 min	none	—
Chelsea	10.75	10.75	8.50	10,000 min	30 day	—
St Pancras	11.30	11.30	9.03	3,000 min	60 day	—
Hendon	11.05	11.05	8.84	1,000 min	90 day	—
Vernon	11.25	11.25	9.00	1,000 min	6 mths	—
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Halifax Card Cash	5.63	5.71	4.57	25 min		Rates rise
Alliance & Leicester	6.25	6.25	5.00	500 min		with larger
Nationwide Anglia Flex	4.50	4.50	3.60	1-min		balances

Compiled by Chase de Vere Montgolfie - call 071 404 5766 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c†	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	6 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	12.75	9.56	7.65	5-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	13.50	10.13	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0293 98151
Deposit Bond*□	13.50	10.13	8.10		3 mth	041-649-4555
35th Issue Cert*†	9.50	9.50	9.50	25-1,000	8 day	091-3864900
Yearly Plan†	9.50	9.50	9.50	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3864900
General						
Extension Rate†	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	13.00	9.75	7.80	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
American Life	10.70	10.70	9.10	50,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
General Portfolio	9.80	9.80	8.33	1,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Financial Asr	9.85	9.85	8.37	5,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Consolidated Life	9.80	9.80	8.33	5,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5766
Aetna	10.00	10.00	8.50	20,000 min	5 yrs	for details

		Holiday rates	£ buys
RPI (Dec. 89-90)	+9.3%	Spanish Pesetas:	177.50
Bank Base Rate	14.0%	French Francs:	9.67
Personal Loan	24.9%	Greek Drachmas:	310.00
Credit Card	19.5-31%	Italian Lire:	2145.00

*‡ £2.5k for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less † Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates †Tax free *Nearest taxable paid gross 3-Higher rates for larger sums □ No longer on sale*

Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Birmingham Midshir. 0902 710710	13.25	£15-250K	90	After 1.25% discount for 1st year
Chelsea 0242 521381	13.00	negotiable	100	After 1.5% reduction to 31.12.91
Yorkshire 0274 734822	11.95	to £250K	95	Rate capped for 1st 6 months. Arr. fee £125
BANKS				
Lloyds 0272 433433	13.05	negotiable	95	After 1.75% discount to 31.3.92
OTHER (FINANCE HOUSE)				
National Home Loans 021 712 2520	13.95	£20-100K	100	Rate guaranteed to 31.12.91

Figures supplied by Step's Guides Ltd: Telephone 0753 860482.

STOCK MARKET

Insurance shares fall on profits warning by Legal & General

A PROFITS warning by Legal & General left the shares 10p lower at 356p and cast a shadow over the rest of the insurance sector.

Legal & General caught the City on the hop by announcing that 1990 figures would reflect a deterioration in the general insurance result, compared with the first six months of last year.

Joe Palmer, chief executive, blamed claims for household subsidence, totalling £43 million, and a loss on the mortgage guarantee side, because of the slump in the housing market and the recession.

Analysts immediately responded by reducing their 1990 profit estimates. UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, has cut its forecast by £28 million to £50 million, compared with the £142 million achieved in 1989. Other brokers are now expected to follow suite. The news also left London and Manchester 5p lower at 308p, Prudential Corporation 2p down at 215p and Refuge Group 1p down at 602p. Among the composites, Commercial Union eased 1p to 489p, Guardian Royal Exchange 2p to 197p, and Sun Alliance 3p to 353p.

A futures inspired rally enabled the rest of the equity market to recover from early falls and end the account on a steady note. The weather meant that many fund managers failed to make it into work and securities houses were only able to muster a skeleton staff.

As a result, trading conditions were thin with only 357 million shares traded. The FT-SE 100 index clawed back an early fall of 11.3 to finish 1.5 points higher at 2,245.2. The FT 30 share index closed up 4.0 points at 1,760.2.

Government securities ended the session with small gains of £⅛ at the longer end still hoping for an early cut in interest rates.

Pilkington, the glass and optical group, fell 6p to 169p as the company's own broker cut its forecasts. Cazenove is reckoned to have reduced its forecast for the current year to March 31, by £10 million to £155 million and to £130 million for 1992.

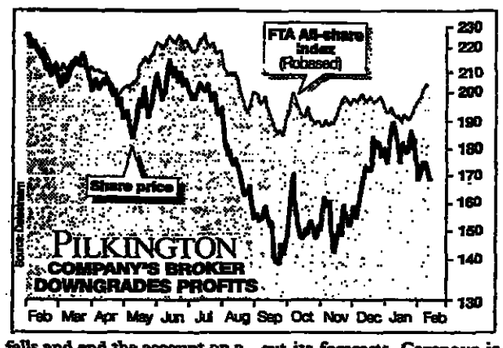
End of account bear closing provided gains for BAA, 6p to 348p, Hawker Siddeley, 15p to 470p, British Aerospace, 7p to 551p, and Marks and Spencer, 8p to 240p.

Thames Television fell 20p to 271p, after receiving a cash bid from Thorn EMI, its 28 per cent shareholder, also 20p lower at 631p. Thorn is offering 250p a share. The whole deal values Thames at £148.9 million. BET, with a further 28 per cent of the shares, has already accepted the terms giving Thorn 56 per cent of the company.

Carlton Communications, the film and television services group, had originally been tipped as the most likely suitor for Thames. But Carlton, unchanged at 377p, has appointed Nigel Walmsley, managing director of Capital Radio, to head up its own bid for one of the independent television franchises this year.

Glaxo fell 4p to 915p, reflecting the influences of Wall Street. Interim figures due this month are expected to reveal a flat performance with brokers such as Smith New Court forecasting pre-tax profits of £590 million.

MICHAEL CLARK



TOKYO

Nikkei up for fifth day

Tokyo

SHARES ended firmer, recording their fifth successive day of gains.

Brokers said the Nikkei would have risen further had it not been for the squaring of positions ahead of a three-day weekend.

Hopes for lower rates and growing confidence in the market fuelled the rise, they said.

"There is an incredible amount of confidence," Ross Rowbury, senior broker at Sanyo Securities, said. "The negative factors haven't disappeared, but they are nothing the market has not already appraised."

The Nikkei index was up 191.65 points, or 0.80 per cent, at 24,296.08, with 700 million shares traded.

The broader first section Topix index was up 18.42 points at 1,805.29, the first time it has gone above 1,800 since December 19. *(Reuter)*

WALL STREET

Blue chips fall on profit taking

New York

BLUE chips gave up some of their gains in morning trading as investors stepped in to take quick profits after an early surge. The broad market was firm in heavy trading.

After rising 12.88 points, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 2.22 points, at 2,807.92, in early trading. Advancing shares narrowly outpaced declining shares. About 24 million shares were traded.

Ralph Bloch, chief technical analyst at Raymond, James and Associates, said: "You're seeing the bouts of profit-taking getting more frequent. This rally is losing some of its power."

□ **Hong Kong** — Shares ended firmer in moderate trade. The Hang Seng index gained 25.11 points to 3,359.09 and the broader Hong Kong index 16.11 to 2,203.21.

□ **Singapore** — Share prices closed mixed with the Straits Times index down 1.70 points at 1,294.10.

□ **Sydney** — The market defied the strong downward pressure exerted by a 20-point slide on Wall Street overnight to close moderately weaker. The All-Ordinaries closed 4.0 points lower at 1,340.4.

□ **Frankfurt** — The Dax index rose 31.56 points, or 2.2 per cent, to 1,467.82, a high for this year and 5 per cent above the end of last year. *(Reuter)*

MAJOR INDICES

New York:		
Dow Jones	2826.73	(+16.09)*
S&P Composite	358.45	(+1.93)*
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	24296.08	(+191.65)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	3359.09	(+25.11)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	985.20	(+13.24)
Amsterdam:		
CBS Tendency	81.9	(+0.2)
Sydney: AO	1340.4	(–4.0)
Frankfurt: DAX	1467.82	(+31.56)
Brussels:		
General	5121.17	(+34.30)
Paris: CAC	424.90	(–1.72)
Zurich: SKA Gen	488.9	(+3.6)
London:		
FT–A All-Share	1072.83	(+1.33)
FT–"500"	1178.97	(+0.61)
FT Gold Mines	138.1	(+6.4)
FT Fixed Interest	93.60	(+0.07)
FT Govt Secs	85.15	(+0.14)
Bargains	27238	
SEAQ Volume	380.2m	
USM (Datastream)	112.13	(–0.37)

*Denotes latest trading price

	Feb 8 midday	Feb 7 close		Feb 8 midday	Feb 7 close		Feb 8 midday	Feb 7 close
Abbott Lab	45	45	Enron	54¼	55⅜	Chrysler	38⅜	38¾
Aetna Life	45¾	45¾	Entergy	23¾	23¾	Pac Gas	41⅜	41⅜
Ahmanson	18⅛	18⅛	Exxpl	29¾	29¾	Pac Gas Elec	26⅜	26⅜
Air Prods	59¾	58¾	Exxon	53⅜	53⅞	Pac Telesis	43¾	42⅝
Albertsons	39¾	40⅛	Fed NMA	43⅝	43⅝	Pacsar	40⅛	40⅝
Alcan Al	21⅜	21⅜	Fedrl Expns	40⅜	41⅛	Pacificorp	21⅛	21⅛
Alco Stand	34⅜	34⅜	Fir Nonstar	13⅜	13⅜	Pan	44¾	44¾
Allied Signal	51⅛	51⅜	Fluor	43¾	44¾	Paramount	48⅛	48
Alumin CA	65⅛	64⅝	FMC	94¼	94⅛	Perkin-Hmbr	28⅝	27⅝
Am Brands	43	43⅛	Ford Motor	29⅜	30	Penney	52	52⅝
Am Cyanmd	56	56⅝	FPL	29⅝	29⅝	Pennzoil	69⅝	69⅝
Am EPC	28⅝	27¾	Fst Chicago	24⅛	24⅛	Pepsico	39⅝	39⅝
Am General	36⅜	36¾	Fst Interst	33⅜	34	Pfizer	84⅛	83
Am Home	84¼	84	Fst Union	19⅝	20⅛	Philips Pet	27⅞	28⅛
Am Intl	86⅜	85⅝	Gannett	41⅜	41⅝	Philips Elec	19⅝	19⅝
Am Medical	4⅛	4⅜	Gen Cinema	21	21	Pitts Works	28⅜	28⅜
Am Stores	65⅛	65⅝	Gen Elec	65	64⅞	Phips Dodge	64⅛	64⅝
Amax	24⅛	24⅜	Gen Mills	48⅝	48⅝	Pitney Bow	48	47⅝
Amer Hess	48⅝	47⅞	Gen Motors	36⅜	36⅝	Ptcr Dome	14⅜	14⅝
Amertech	68	67⅞	Gen RE	92½	91⅜	PNC Fncl	27	27
Amex	24⅛	24⅛	Gen Signal	41¼	41⅜	Prbhdle Beto	14	14⅜
Amoco	51½	52	Genentech	29	27	Polaroid	29⅜	29⅜
AMP	48¼	48⅝	Genuine Pts	39⅝	40	PPG Inds	51½	51⅜
AMR	56⅝	56⅝	Georgia-Pac	44⅜	43⅜	Prctr Gmble	91⅜	91⅜
Anheuser-B	46	45⅝	Gillette	66⅞	66⅝	Price	44⅛	44⅜
Apple Comp	58⅛	57⅝	Goodrich	40⅜	40	Primerica	28⅜	28⅝
Archer-Dan	22⅜	22⅜	Goodyear	18⅝	28	Pub Service	28⅝	28⅝
Ashla	18⅜	18⅝	Grace	27⅛	27⅛	Quaker Oats	62⅞	62⅞
Armstrong	28⅝	28	Greyhound	29⅜	29⅜	Ralston Pur	96⅝	97⅛
Asarco	28⅝	28⅝	Gt Atlantic	48⅛	48⅝	Raychem	28⅝	28⅝
Ashland Oil	31⅛	31⅛	Gt Western	15⅞	15⅝	Raytheon	75⅞	76
AT&T	34⅜	34⅛	GTE	30⅜	30⅝	Reebok	17	16⅞
Atlan Richfld	122⅝	122⅝	Halliburn	47¼	47⅜	Reichhold	23⅜	23⅝
Auto DP	63	62⅝	Heinz	34⅜	34⅛	Rockwell	27⅜	27⅜
Avery Int	22¼	21⅞	Hercules	37⅞	37⅞	Rohm Haas	42	41⅝
Avon Prod	35⅝	35⅜	Hershey Fd	41	40⅞	Royal Dutch	78⅝	79
Baldwin	27⅞	27⅝	Hewlet Pkd	38⅜	39⅝	Rubbermaid	44⅛	44⅜
Banc One	39⅝	39⅜	Hilton Hd	40⅜	39⅝	Rykbs Mll	62⅝	62⅝
Bankamerica	32	32⅜	Home Depot	49⅝	49⅝	Safeco	39⅝	39⅝
Bard	18⅝	19⅜	Homestake	16⅛	16⅝	Salomon	25⅞	26⅛
Barnett Bl	23⅛	23⅜	Honeywell	52⅛	50⅝	Sant Fe Pac	7¾	7¾
Bausch Lmb	72⅝	72⅜	Houston Ind	37⅞	37⅞	Sara Lee	34⅝	34⅝
Baxter Intl	30⅝	30⅛	Howfld Intl	38⅜	38⅝	Schlmbrgr	57¼	57¼
Bec Dickn	75⅝	74⅝	Humana	46⅝	46⅝	Schlumbgr	66⅞	66⅝
Bell Atlan	50⅛	49⅝	IBM	129	128⅝	Scimg-Plgh	46⅝	46
Bellsouth	52½	52⅜	IFSF	81	79⅜	Scott Paper	43⅜	43⅜
Bet Hughes	27⅞	27	Illinois TW	25⅛	25⅝	Seagram	69⅞	69⅝
Black Decker	11⅛	11⅜	Inco	29⅜	30⅛	Sears Rbk	29⅝	29⅝
Block	46⅝	46⅝	Ingsol-Rand	44¼	44⅝	Security Pac	24⅛	24⅛
Bnkrs Tst NY	44¾	44⅛	Inland Steel	24	24⅛	Shrwin-Wllms	43⅛	43⅜
Boeing	51⅞	51	Intel	49	48⅝	Skyline	16⅝	16⅝
Boise Casc	27⅝	27⅞	Intl Paper	61¼	61⅜	Smkp-on Tls	31⅛	31⅜
Borden	32	31⅝	ITT	55	55	Southern	27⅛	27
Brist-Myer	71⅝	70⅝	James River	27¼	26⅝	St Paul	66⅝	67⅛
Browng-Fer	27¾	28¾	Johnsn John	78½	79⅛	Stanley Wk	34⅜	34⅛
Burl Nth	29⅝	30⅛	K Mart	33⅜	33⅜	Stone Cntr	16⅝	16⅝
CAI	9¼	9⅛	Kellogg	62⅛	61⅞	Sun Co	31⅛	31⅛
Campbell Sp	64⅜	64¾	Kerr-McGee	45	45⅞	Sunbst Bk	25⅞	24⅝
Cap Cities	460	459	Kimbly-Clrk	87¼	86⅝	Super Valu	28⅛	28
Capital HC	48⅛	48⅛	Knight-Ridr	52⅜	52	SW Bell	56⅝	56⅞
Carolina	48⅝	48	Lilly	75¾	73⅛	Symbol	68⅝	69⅜
Caterpillar	47¾	48⅛	Limtad	25⅛	25⅞	Synbio	39⅜	39⅝
CBS	167⅛	166⅜	Lin Bridcstg	69⅝	69	Tandem	14	14⅞
Central SW	44	44	Lincln Nat	51⅛	51⅛	Tandy	32⅛	32⅛
Champion	29	28⅝	Litton Ind	81⅞	82	Tele-comm	18⅝	18⅝
Chase Man	13⅞	13⅝	Lockheed	42	41⅞	Teledyne	19⅝	19⅝
Chem Bnkg	16⅛	15⅝	Loews-Plad	29	28⅞	Temple-In	16⅛	16⅛
Chevron	73⅝	73⅞	Manu Hanvr	24¼	24	Tenneco	48⅝	48⅝
Chrysler	11¾	12	Marriott	14⅛	14⅛	Texaco	60⅝	60⅝
Chubb	63	63⅛	Marsh Mclen	77⅞	76⅛	Texas Inst	41⅝	40⅝
Cigna	46⅜	47⅛	Martin Mar	32	32	Texas Util	37⅛	37
Cincorp	15	15⅛	Masco	21⅛	22⅛	Textron	56⅝	56⅝
Citbnk Lic	38⅛	38	May Dept	47¾	47¾	Thrw Wtnr	69⅝	69⅝
Clorox	38⅝	39⅛	Maytag	12¾	12⅝	Times Mirr	30⅝	30⅝
Cmwth Edis	37⅛	37¾	MCA	n/a	n/a	Timken	28⅝	28⅝
CNA Fncl	78⅝	78⅛	McDnld Doug	48⅝	48⅝	Tomkmatic	64⅛	64
Coastal	32⅝	32⅝	McDonalds	28⅝	28⅝	Toys R Us	27⅞	28⅛
Coca-Cola	50⅝	49⅞	McGraw-Hill	56⅛	56⅝	Transam	34	34⅛
Colgate-Pal	73¾	72⅝	MCI Com	24	24	Travelers	20⅝	20⅝
Columb Gas	46⅛	46⅛	Mead	29⅛	29	Tribune	43⅝	43⅛
Compaq	70⅝	69⅝	Medtronic	86⅝	86⅝	TRW	40⅝	41⅛
Comsat	40⅛	39⅝	Melville	46⅛	46⅜	Tyco Lab	40	40⅛
Conag Fds	23⅛	23⅜	Merck	95⅝	95⅝	UAL	132⅝	137
Cons NG	43⅞	43⅞	Mert Lynch	28⅝	28⅝	Un Camp	40⅜	40
Cons Rail	48⅛	48	MM&M	87¼	87⅛	Un Carbide	18⅜	18⅝
Cooper Ind	45¼	45	Mobil	60⅝	60	Un Pacific	75⅝	75
Corning	52⅛	51⅛	Monsanto	88⅛	88⅝	Unilever	89⅝	89⅝
CPC Intl	77⅛	76⅝	Moore	25⅛	25⅜	Unisys	3⅜	3⅝
Crown Cork	54⅞	54⅝	Morgan	48⅜	48⅝	Unocal	28⅝	28⅝
CSX	36⅝	37⅛	Motorola	55⅞	56⅛	Upjohn	41⅛	40⅝
Dana	31⅛	31½	Nat Medical	45⅛	45⅛	US West	39⅛	39⅝
Dayton-Hud	66⅝	66⅛	Nat Semi	6¼	6⅛	Usair Gp	20⅜	21
Deere	52⅝	53⅜	Nat Service	27⅛	27⅛	USF&G	10⅝	10⅝
Delta Air	73⅝	72⅝	Nimstar	3⅜	3⅜	UST	40⅝	40⅝
Deluxe	37⅜	37½	NCNB	30⅛	30⅝	USX	30⅜	30⅜
Detroit Ed	28⅝	28⅝	NCR	90⅝	89⅛	Utd Tech	48⅝	49
Digital Eq	70⅝	70⅝	NED Bncp	38⅜	38⅝	Utd Telcm	25⅛	24⅝
Dillard	26⅛	27⅞	Newmnt Min	37⅞	37⅞	VF	22⅝	22⅝
Disney	116⅛	117⅜	Nicorp Mtwk	13⅝	13⅝	Wal-Mart	25⅝	25⅝
Dominion	46⅝	46⅛	Nike	58	58⅜	Wellgreen	31⅛	30⅝
Donnelley	43¾	43⅛	NL Indstrs	10⅛	10⅛	Wells Fargo	69⅛	70⅜
Dover	40⅛	40	Nordstorm	28⅛	28⅝	Westg Elec	27⅛	27
Dow Chem	51⅛	51⅛	North Strn	44⅛	44⅛	Weyerhsr	24⅛	23⅝
Dow Jones	25⅝	25⅞	Norwest	24⅛	24⅛	Whirlpool	34⅛	34⅛
Dresser Ind	23⅞	24	Nthn St Pwr	33⅞	33⅝	Wmbldn	22	22
Du Pont	37	36⅞	Nthn Telcm	29⅝	29⅝	Whitman	22	22
Duke Pwr	29⅝	28⅝	NY Times	24	23⅞	Winn-Dixie	39⅝	39⅞
Dun Bradst	47⅛	47⅛	Nynex	73⅛	73⅝	Woolworth	33	32⅝
East Kodak	44⅝	43⅜	Occid Petrl	18⅝	18⅛	Wrigley	55⅛	55⅝
Eaton	57⅛	58	Ohio Ed	18	18	Wrlpl-Lamb	72⅜	71⅛
Emerson El	43⅜	43⅝	Oracle Sys	10	10⅛	Xerox	50⅝	49⅝

	First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
	February 4	February 15	May 16	May 28

Call options were taken out on: 8/2/91 T Cowie, Johnson & Firth Brown, Oliver Res. Putt: ADT. Putt & Call: Citydvision.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE				
401, St John Street, London EC1V 4QE				
071-837 6464				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	14.72	15.50	+0.02	::
Bear	14.29	15.05	+0.02	::
Ox	14.28	15.02	-0.06	::
Bull	12.48	13.15	+0.035	::
Stag	12.18	12.80	+0.07	::
Gilt Edged	13.6		+0.1	::
Deposit	13.18		+0.03	::
Pensions				
Squirrel	18.51	19.49	+0.06	::
Bear	17.91	18.75	-0.02	::
Ox	18.05	18.98	-0.02	::
Bull	14.82	15.71	-0.12	::
Stag	14.19	14.94	-0.02	::
Gilt Edged	15.77		+0.09	::
Deposit	15.72		+0.04	::
Exempt App Mfsed	163.5	166.8	-2.89	::
ABBEY LIFE				
80, Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL				
0202 292573				
Property Fund Inc	270.3	284.6	+0.1	::
Do Accum	438.3	482.5		::
Equity Fund Income	115.9	122.0	+3.7	::
Do Accum	136.2	146.5	+4.3	::
Selective Fund	304.1	320.1	+4.3	::
Money Fd	301.0	316.9	+0.5	::
Prop Fd Ser 4	347.5	365.8		::
Equity Ser 4	139.7	147.1	+4.5	::
Man Ser 4	411.4	448.5	+0.1	::
Acorn Ser 4	297.0	361.1	+0.5	::
Money Ser 4	268.2	268.9	+0.5	::
Fixed Int Fd Ser 4	262.5	266.5	+1.5	::
American Ser 4	270.7	291.8	+4.5	::
High Inc Ser 4	440.4	469.5	+7.6	::
Indexed Inv Ser 4	152.9	161.9	-1.5	::
Japan Ser 4	260.5	274.4	+10.9	::
ALBANY LIFE				
3, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar				
0707 42811				
Equity Fd Acc	£10.39	10.94	+0.23	::
European Fd Accum	239.4	257.9	+5.7	::
Fixed Int Acc	282.1	292.1	+2.5	::
Cap Money Fd Acc	278.1	287.9	+0.4	::
Int Mon Fd Acc	370.1	383.3	+0.9	::
Int Fxd Int Fd Acc	222.4	234.9	+1.4	::
Japan Fund	227.5	239.5	+2.5	::
Nth American Fd Acc	186.1	273.8	+7.5	::
Prop Fd Acc	384.4	351.9	+3.3	::
Multiple Inv Acc	668.0	704.7	+12.6	::
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL				
0793-514514				
Fixed Int Dep Accum	305.8	321.7	+0.6	::
Equity Accum	364.4	381.9	+0.7	::
Property Accum	502.0	528.5	-0.1	::
Far East Accum	171.7	180.8	+3.5	::
Managed Capital	277.8	292.4	+1.7	::
Do Accum	700.7	737.6	+17.0	::
Overseas Accum	606.1	640.2	+18.3	::
Gth Edged Accum	342.7	360.8	+2.3	::
Amer Equity Accum	161.0	173.4	+17.8	::
Amer Fixed Accum	201.8	212.3	+5.6	::
Amer Prop Accum	108.8	114.4	-4.7	::
ASTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
10 Queens Terrat Aberdeen AB9 1QJ				
Freephone 0800 833 550				
International	189.4	202.5	+8.44	::
High Income	183.8	193.2		::
Income & Growth	259.4	283.6	+1.97	::
Basic Resource	117.5	123.8	+0.83	::
American	164.6	173.3	+1.34	::
Japan & General	271.7	291.3	+4.31	::
Special Situations	218.7	231.3	+2.17	::
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252, Romford Rd, London E7 9JS				
081-534 5544				
Equity Accum	236.6	254.9	+12.8	::
Do Initial	202.5	459.9	+9.4	::
Gilt Edged Accum	288.9	280.9	+3.2	::
Do Initial	232.7	218.4	+1.8	::
International Accum	243.0	258.9	+8.8	::
Do Initial	184.0	196.7	+4.9	::
Managed Accum	243.5	261.9	+7.0	::
Do Initial	268.8	274.4	+5.4	::
Money Accum	268.1	280.7	+0.4	::
Do Initial	173.3	184.8	+0.2	::
Property Accum	272.2	290.1	+8.8	::
Do Initial	208.4	218.3		::
American Accum	153.6	165.1		::
Do Initial	118.6	134.9	+3.6	::
Australia Accum	118.6	128.2	+2.5	::
Do Initial	91.8	98.5	+2.5	::
Financial Accum	206.3	217.2	+4.4	::
Do Initial	158.0	167.4	+4.4	::
500 Accum	268.3	277.7	+4.8	::
Do Initial	209.0	210.5	+3.9	::
Japan Extn Acc 2	278.8	298.9	+10.0	::
Do Initial 2	205.7	218.8	+11.3	::
Income Accum	231.0	248.5	+7.7	::
Do Initial	233.8	267.2	+5.9	::
Selective Accum	178.8	192.3	+3.4	::
Special Situs Accum	114.8	123.5	+2.8	::
Unit Tech Accum	80.4	85.2	+2.7	::
Do Initial	71.3	75.1	+2.1	::
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House Chatham Kent ME4 4JF				
0634 834000				
The Managed Fund	511.08		+4.55	::
Income Fund	511.8	538.5	+4.35	::
Extra Income Fund	467.6	492.2	+13.86	::
Worldwide Growth Fd	312.5	329.1	+9.43	::
Balanced Fund	435.2	457.9	+2.99	::
Smlr Co's & Fd Fd	387.2	411.5	+1.97	::
Int Technology Fund	287.4	313.0	+9.51	::
N Amer & Gen Fund	239.6	241.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST STATISTICS

Monthly performance figures show value of £100 based on offer to offer prices without income re-invested and ranking within their sector. Yearly figures are based on offer to bid prices with income re-invested. – Unit trust was founded in the past year. †PEP scheme available. *Source: Finstat.*

UK GENERAL

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month: perf	rank	1 year: perf	rank
Abbey Gen	152.0	162.5	101.1	67	79.7	61
Abbey Income & Gth	270.8	288.4	101.8	29	84.4	57
Abtr Dunbar Accumulator	764.6	814.2	102.6	21	89.8	12
† Abtr Dunbar Asset Value	355.1	378.1	101.3	54	87.5	37
† Abtr Dunbar Balanced	469.9	500.4	102.4	28	91.2	10
† Abtr Dunbar Growth & Inc	166.1	176.8	103.0	16	88.7	18
Abtr Gth	69.71	74.39	100.4	82	87.9	36
† Aviem Equity	63.40	68.72	103.1	14	83.6	5
† Barclays Uni 500	281.3	301.7	98.0	100	73.5	94
† Barclays Uni Gen	179.6	187.8	101.4	50	86.2	42
Barclays Uni Trustee	123.6	132.2	101.6	57	77.5	67
Berkshire Invst	232.7	242.4	101.1	67	83.2	54
Bering Portfolio	64.16	67.86	102.1	42	88.4	21
† Bishopsgate PEP Inc	191.7	197.3	105.0	2	94.3	3
Brown Shipley UK & Gen	29.48	31.36	103.2	13	82.4	100
Brown Shipley PEP	50.21	53.58	102.5	23	–	–
Brown Shipley UK Gth	104.6	111.4	102.0	46	79.7	61
Bryanston Income Gth	164.5	173.3	101.7	57	83.6	45
Buckmaster Gth Portfolio	45.13	48.71	100.3	90	80.5	87
Cannon Gth	34.2e	36.62	103.1	10	84.5	47
† Capability Income & Gth	285.8	304.7	99.6	93	89.6	47
Capital Hse Asset Value	148.4	157.8	102.4	28	85.5	34
CCL UK Gen	47.13	50.13	100.8	78	78.3	85
Channel Isles Gen General Equity	54.65	57.88	102.8	46	88.4	25
Colonial Mutual Capital	43.86	46.51	101.6	54	78.9	78
† Confederation Gth	36.70	39.34	101.9	45	84.5	36
Consistent Tst	23.73	25.35	100.7	74	81.4	74
Cornhill Uk Equity	43.44	46.22	99.6	93	75.0	92
† Crown Gth	305.0	326.3	99.8	88	84.6	56
DS Portfolio	57.29	60.94	97.9	101	73.7	95
† DU Dollar Gen	92.33	98.22	102.2	37	85.3	53
† DU UK & Gen	55.51	59.05	101.1	67	81.2	75
Deprosperity	108.2	113.9	97.6	102	87.6	88
† Eagle Star UK Balanced	61.78	67	103.3	94	91.4	44
† Eastdale Pelican	93.05	97.95	99.9	89	82.7	67
Equity & Law Gen	313.3	333.4	105.7	1	93.2	7
† Equity & Law UK Gth	169.2	180.0	102.5	23	90.2	15
† Fidelity Growth & Inc	113.5	121.8	100.7	77	82.0	69
Fleming Capital Portfolio	99.91	103.4	98.6	98	80.1	78
† Framlington Income & Gth	137.7	146.5	98.7	92	73.4	93
Friends Prov Equity	249.95	265.90	102.6	31	83.1	65
GA Bands	158.7	168.2	102.4	28	86.5	36
GAM Uk Diversified	107.48	114.34	104.0	5	–	–
GAM UK Special	97.41	103.63	95.0	104	82.3	101
Garrington UK Index	97.71	102.51	99.2	97	79.9	91
GRE Sterling Inc	312.6	332.9	98.6	91	78.7	82
Guins Mahon T B Sm Cos	164.7	176.1	92.7	115	61.5	102
Henderson Inc & Assets	131.82	141.56	102.2	37	84.4	57
† Henderson Income & Gth	162.51	185.32	101.4	51	85.3	53
† Hill Samuel British	69.57	74.40	102.2	37	88.2	23
† Hill Samuel Inc & Gth	107.8	114.3	102.4	28	85.7	49
Holborn Equity	509.12	544.51	101.6	57	83.1	53
† IG Gth	211.7	225.2	99.1	97	83.0	58
† IG PEP Inc	8.439	8.976	103.0	16	83.3	69
† IAS Income & Gth	39.42	42.37	100.6	81	75.7	91
Lawrence Keen Income & Gth	39.62	42.37	100.6	81	75.7	91
Lawrence Universalised Asset	48.62	52.59	99.2	95	79.9	79
Lazard Uk Income & Gth	254.5	269.3	100.4	82	85.4	52
Lloyds Balanced	241.56	254.29	102.5	23	82.4	8
Lowndon Mngd Gen	57.91	61.71	102.7	19	84.2	15
M&G Gen	40.70	43.00	101.2	60	82.0	66
M&G Trustee	28.30	27.80	100.4	82	79.5	84
Nasmith Growth Acc	116.9	124.4	101.5	60	83.4	62
† Nat & Provincial UK Sel Port	67.78	72.18	102.2	37	84.4	57
Nathaniel UK Gth	60.44	64.84	100.3	83	82.0	69
New/Invest British Leaders	254.7	271.0	102.1	43	89.6	19
† Newbury Gen	337.6	360.2	101.0	72	85.2	40
NEW UK Gth	272.6	288.9	100.2	87	79.7	61
† Next Gen	230.2	235.6	101.0	72	83.0	46
† NMW Ent Assets & Earnings	53.21	56.53	100.7	77	82.0	69
† NMW Ent Income & Gth	30.83	33.10	100.9	77	87.2	29
† Morgan Grnf UK Index Trk	105.9	113.3	100.9	75	85.1	42
New Court Major UK Cos	71.05	76.63	103.4	8	83.8	4
New Court Smir UK Cos	157.12	172.90	97.6	102	72.6	96
† NM UK Equity	91.49	127.30	101.4	61	78.2	80
Norwich UK Equity	94.84	100.68	102.0	46	80.3	83
Norwich UK Index Tracking	92.82	98.75	103.3	12	85.1	55
NPI UK Acc	424.5	451.6	101.0	72	80.2	77
Penn Equity	164.9	175.3	102.5	23	85.6	47
† Pearl UK Ind 25 Acc	48.52	51.61	104.0	5	83.6	5
Pegasus UK Income & Gth	43.00	45.71	100.2	86	–	–
† Prosperity Gen	37.75	40.16	101.7	59	84.1	59
† Prov Mutual Inc & Gth	68.53	72.47	102.0	46	85.3	53
Reliance British Line	220.0	233.3	101.6	57	85.6	50
Royal Life UK Index Tracking	108.3	115.4	101.1	67	86.4	37
Schroder UK Equity	150.2	160.2	103.4	6	91.1	11
Schroder UK Index (Rest) Acc	117.46	120.08	102.2	37	85.6	32
Scot Equit UK Blue Chip Acc	26.59	28.44	104.3	4	86.1	4
Scot Life UK Equity	247.1	264.3	102.1	43	87.8	27
Scot Mut UK Equity	223.6	237.9	102.0	46	84.5	36
Scot Mut UK Gth	47.71	51.03	102.5	23	81.7	73
Scot Widows Equity	377.6	402.7	102.6	18	86.5	51
Scrimgeour Vickers Sm Mid Port	139.6	131.8	105.6	2	90.2	15
Standard Life UK Equity Gen	32.08	34.09	103.4	8	86.6	27
Stewart Ivory British	572.1	713.0	102.0	46	77.5	97
† Stewart Ivory PEP	112.3	118.9	102.0	46	88.1	24
Sunra Life Equity	527.3	556.0	102.4	28	90.3	14
Target Equity	146.1	156.0	103.4	8	88.0	35
† TR General Gth	70.34	74.82	102.2	37	87.1	30
† Tracker Trust	231.6	243.9	102.7	19	86.9	32
† TSB Gen	209.46	217.5	100.1	81	83.7	60
† TSB Inc	273.52	280.97	102.2	37	83.7	60
United Charities	174.2	185.8	100.7	77	88.0	43
Sector Averages/Totals	–	–	101.5	166	83.9	182

UK EQUITY INCOME

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month: perf	rank	1 year: perf	rank
Abbey Dividend & Gth	43.87	46.67	103.1	25	84.8	52
Abbey High Income Equity	122.6	130.4	102.0	53	86.2	45
Aviemore Extra Inc	36.59	39.05	101.9	58	79.9	91
Aviemore UK Equity Inc	63.19	67.55	103.9	22	85.7	39
Anglo Inc	72.09	77.06	102.4	28	90.9	10
Atkins High Yield	75.23	78.89	98.8	97	79.4	85
Atkins Income & Gth	293.4	310.8	101.2	78	85.9	49
Atkins Smir Cos Dividend	61.10	64.72	96.3	121	67.8	124
Atkins-Inchcape Income Equity	71.68	76.59	101.2	63	84.3	51
† Atbi Dunbar Equity Inc	170.6	181.6	101.7	57	83.7	57
† Atbi Dunbar High Inc	320.6	341.4	102.5	33	85.6	34
† Atbi Dunbar High Yield	180.5	192.2	102.2	37	84.4	54
Arbuthnot Quarterly Inc	35.74	37.88	99.6	112	73.7	114
Bisset Inc	94.94	100.4	99.4	103	77.8	101
Bank of Ireland Inv Plus	74.56	78.90	103.5	15	86.2	36
† Barclays Uni Extra Inc	94.68	99.57	100.1	82	76.8	82
Barclays Uni Inc	388.2	408.6	97.5	116	80.3	69
Barclays Uni Smir Cos Inc	94.38	99.29	101.9	58	81.7	72
BG Income Gth	237.2	250.7	102.1	43	87.3	33
Brown Dividend	95.96	99.61	99.3	104	83.4	126
† Brown Shipley Inc	83.14	89.82	98.0	129	75.2	111
† Bishopsgate Inc	139.7	147.0	98.6	101	83.2	55
Cannon Inc	43.69	45.99	104.1	9	87.2	31
† Capital Hse Income & Gth	227.2	239.2	101.1	69	83.3	63
Capital Hse Select Inc	98.16	103.32	104.1	9	84.9	48
Capital Hse UK Eq Inc	93.63	98.56	98.2	122	70.6	122
Capital Hse UK Eq Inc	33.67	35.62	104.1	9	84.9	48
† CCF Sel High Inc Equity	45.08	47.56	103.5	15	82.9	4
† Channel Isles Equity High Inc	58.42	61.52	103.5	15	83.5	54
Comhill High Inc	46.29	48.73	102.5	35	86.4	41
† Crown High Inc	296.7	317.3	98.6	99	74.9	114
DU Equity Inc	114.71	122.03	100.5	83	80.3	103
† DU Inc	56.97	60.61	101.2	74	84.8	30
† DU Outlier Inc	76.86	81.76	101.2	74	78.8	80
DU UK Inc	189.66	212.74	100.0	94	78.4	89
Dragonmount Glen Portfolio	73.95	78.25	98.8	100	73.9	110
† Eagle Star UK High Inc	99.64	106	102.7	30	84.5	46
EFM Growth & Inc	177.9	189.0	100.2	88	80.8	73
† Equitable High Inc	96.18	101.22	100.9	78	84.9	48
† Equity & Law Higher Inc	263.2	280.0	101.2	74	85.0	47
Exeter Equity High Inc	46.62	49.09	101.7	64	83.2	1
Fidelity Inc	85.64	90.17	100.2	85	83.8	50
Fidelity Income Plus	95.89	103.9	101.3	70	82.0	67
Fleming Income Portfolio	67.52	69.25	100.2	88	82.0	74
† Framlington Extra Inc	208.9	222.2	98.7	118	73.7	116
Framlington Monthly Inc	102.9	109.4	98.7	111	73.6	119
† Friends Prov Selip Inc	45.38	48.26	99.8	104	73.7	115
† FS Inc Gth	43.34	46.08	102.3	34	84.2	58
G Mason St Vincent High Inc	101.7	104.2	100.1	82	87.5	28
† Garrmore Inc	93.66	100.16	99.3	104	81.1	80
Gartmore High Inc	109.7	116.4	98.9	109	87.0	32
† Govett UK Progressive Inc	93.71	99.13	100.2	86	76.5	106
† Grieveson Bridgt Inc	185.80	197.85	100.2	86	80.2	74
GRE Inc	96.88	103.13	100.3	84	80.2	74
Grosvenor Inc	175.4	187.7	102.0	53	87.8	32
† GT Inc	94.08	100.50	102.3	43	81.0	81
† GT Smir Cos Div	31.05	33.21	92.6	129	61.3	127
† Guins Mahon High Inc	93.02	98.63	103.3	19	90.0	14
† Hambros Equity Inc	88.83	93.35	100.7	80	75.5	110
Hambros High Inc	88.49	94.67	102.9	50	75.0	113
Henderson High Inc	229.41	246.15	99.1	107	77.3	104
Henderson Smir Cos Div	108.59	120.24	93.4	125	64.1	126
Hill Samuel High Yield	91.80	97.48	100.0	91	84.5	55
† Holborn Equity Inc	91.86	98.97	105.1	2	89.2	18
James Capel Inc	395.5	422.0	102.1	46	88.8	15
† KB High Yield	106.4	113.2	102.8	33	86.6	32
† KB UK Smir Cos Div	92.03	94.07	94.4	127	70.1	127
† Key Inc	75.34	80.58	101.3	70	83.6	46
LAC Inc	458.8	487.9	94.7	129	78.7	105
† LAS Extra Inc	19.48	20.88	102.4	28	83.0	55
Lawnsmoor High Inc	81.34	86.53	102.4	30	90.5	11
Lazard Uk Inc	186.4	190.5	102.6	33	92.1	6
Legal & General Equity Inc	24.45	26.44	102.2	37	85.7	41
Legal & General Gth	370.14	389.63	102.2	37	85.7	41
London & Mngd Inc	47.02	50.46	102.0	53	84.5	55
† M&G Dividend	25.70	27.26	100.4	86	81.6	76
M&G Equity Inc	208.8	220.4	98.0	114	71.7	121
† M&G Extra Yield	286.7	302.8	99.5	102	77.2	103
M&G High Inc	18.30	19.40	100.0	94	76.8	83
Nelson Gen	92.31	95.48	99.4	119	89.7	16
Manulife High Inc	134.9	143.6	102.5	36	78.4	95
Martin Currie Income & Gth	51.85	55.04	100.3	87	82.8	71
Minstercm UK High Inc	31.48	33.67	101.8	59	77.6	102
Mayflower Inc	315.7	335.2	102.5	33	86.1	37
† Mercury High Inc	46.28	49.37	101.1	69	87.9	24
† Mercury Inc	108.4	115.7	102.2	37	87.9	24
Merlin Japnor Inc	70.24	74.72	99.7	100	70.2	123
Metropolitan UK Inc	59.25	63.03	103.8	26	87.2	30
MGM High Inc	231.9	246.7	101.4	66	83.4	65
† Midland High Yield	178.6	191.2	103.0	26	88.6	23
† Nthn Gth Uk Inc	230.6	251.4	102.1	43	83.8	64
Morgan Grnf UK Equity Inc	166.5	177.2	102.5	33	83.4	64
Murray Equity Inc	74.55	79.57	102.2	37	84.9	48
New Court UK Equity Inc	118.30	127.78	103.7	13	91.0	9
† Newton Inc	127.70	148.49	104.3	3	90.4	12
† NM Inc	42.22	45.03	101.5	65	88.8	22
† Norwich UK Equity Inc	95.76	101.87	104.0	11	94.3	3
Pearl Inc	164.2	174.6	102.3	42	85.8	45
Pearl UK Inc	45.41	48.30	103.0	26	88.8	20
Perpetual Inc	212.09	226.84	102.9	42	91.8	75
Premium Monthly Inc	39.93	42.31	98.5	113	–	–
† Prolific High Inc	78.26	77.94	99.9	117	80.5	67
† Prosperity Income & Gth	53.50	56.92	98.9	109	78.0	108
Prov Cap Un High Inc Equity	51.75	55.81	101.8	59	80.0	80
† Refuge Equity Inc	207.4	221.9	102.3	43	–	–
Regency Life Branch Inc	53.54	56.84	100.8	78	87.5	27
Royal Life High Inc	94.64	100.3	102.1	43	84.6	47
Royal London Inc & Gth	114.5	123.1	101.8	59	76.1	107
S&P High Return	202.5	215.4	100.7	80	81.5	79
S&P High Yield	165.5	197.3	101.6	59	81.6	78
S&P Scorpions	180.8	206.1	101.5	66	85.9	39
S&P Smir Cos Inc	172.4	183.7	96.4	118	72.2	120
Save & Prosper	244.9	259.4	102.3	42	87.7	25
Schroder Inc	233.5	248.0	104.4	7	91.3	8
† Scot Am Equity Inc	33.48	35.67	95.6	125	76.1	112
† Scot Equit High Inc	26.47	28.28	103.0	26	86.3	17
Scot Mut Income Plus	80.97	84.97	103.2	27	87.4	29
† Scot Widows High Inc	136.5	144.5	100.6	82	78.2	98
† Scottish Life Inc	92.51	98.41	101.3	70	84.2	58
Second Life UK Ex High Inc	32.47	34.52	104.8	2	87.5	26
Sun Alliance Equity Inc	61.98	66.27	104.5	7	85.5	42
Sun Life of Canada UK Inc	30.57	32.70	100.5	83	81.7	73
Sun Life UK Inc	42.68	45.65	102.4	30	84.2	57
Target Inc	92.85	99.88	103.7	13	89.2	18
† TR Income Gth	77.98	83.55	102.0	53	82.1	73
† TSB Extra Inc	148.15	154.5	99.0	110	82.3	62
UTAM Prest House Inc	145.6	154.5	99.0	110	82.3	62
Wardley Inc	113.7	121.8	101.3	70	83.5	54
† Wrights Selsfgood UK Inc	91.79	96.62	104.7	5	92.8	5
† YUTM UK Equity Inc	52.75	56.42	101.1	77	85.1	46
Sector Averages/Totals	–	–	101.0	129	82.8	127

UK BALANCED

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month: perf	rank	1 year: perf	rank
Arkwright Inc	48.16	51.23	99.1	35	84.7	19
† Brown Shipley High Inc	60.53	64.26	100.2	28	88.0	17
Buckmaster High Income Port	40.64	42.66	100.2	28	84.1	21
Capel	98.64	104.6	100.2	28	84.1	21
Cgnu UK Inc	98.73	63.86	105.5	2	87.5	9
† CIS UK Inc	98.70	105.0	102.4	14	88.0	6
Clerical Med Retirement Inc	19.98	21.36	102.9	10	89.0	6
Colonial Mutual Inc	42.16	45.10	98.8	36	84.7	19
Commercial Union Inc	23.58	25.09	101.8	23	89.0	6
CGU High Inc	24.98	26.60	101.4	26	88.3	11
DU Monthly Income Plus	39.75	42.29	101.5	24	85.3	14
Eglo High Distribution	123.3	133.1	100.1	31	73.1	35
Equity & Law Bnt Fdlty	51.57	54.82	102.0	19	91.4	3
† FS Higher Yield	29.75	31.52	105.4	1	93.6	1
GAM Steady Inc	28.73	30.44	101.2	23	88.6	5
Garrmore Extra Inc	35.72	38.50	101.5	21	87.8	7
† Gartmore High Inc	28.26	30.26	99.5	34	85.1	17
Gruford British Inc	42.73	44.97	99.4	36	84.2	23
Henderson Extra Inc	214.29	228.61	100.3	27	88.2	13
† Hill Inc	78.51	79.41	101.2	23	87.8	8
HS Extra Inc	108.5	114.7	102.5	14	88.6	5
† Key High Inc	47.47	50.67	97.7	100	79.3	27
Lloyds Extra Inc	121.46	128.80	99.6	33	86.6	27
Marlon Currie High Yield	156.50	205.84	102.5	33	92.1	6
Midland Gartmore Extra Inc	41.34	43.88	103.1	22	89.1	4
† M&G Extra Inc	186.4	199.5	102.6	33	92.1	6
Nelson Gen	92.31	95.48	99.4	119	89.7	16
Manulife High Inc	134.9	143.6	102.5	36	78.4	95
Martin Currie Income & Gth	51.85	55.04	100.3	87	82.8	71
Minstercm UK High Inc	31.48	33.67	101.8	59	77.6	102
Mayflower Inc	315.7	335.2	102.5	33	86.1	37
† Mercury High Inc	46.28	49.37	101.1	69	87.9	24
† Mercury Inc	108.4	115.7	102.2	37	87.9	24
Merlin Japnor Inc	70.24	74.72	99.7	100	70.2	123
Metropolitan UK Inc	59.25	63.03	103.8	26	87.2	30
MGM High Inc	231.9	246.7	101.4	66	83.4	65
† Midland High Yield	178.6	191.2	103.0	26	88.6	23
† Nthn Gth Uk Inc	230.6	251.4	102.1	43	83.8	64
Morgan Grnf UK Equity Inc	166.5	177.2	102.5	33	83.4	64
Murray Equity Inc	74.55	79.57	102.2	37	84.9	48
New Court UK Equity Inc	118.30	127.78	103.7	13	91.0	9
† Newton Inc	127.70	148.49	104.3	3	90.4	12
† NM Inc	42.22	45.03	101.5	65	88.8	22
† Norwich UK Equity Inc	95.76	101.87	104.0	11	94.3	3
Pearl Inc	164.2	174.6	102.3	42	85.8	45
Pearl UK Inc	45.41	48.30	103.0	26	88.8	20
Perpetual Inc	212.09	226.84	102.9	42	91.8	75
Premium Monthly Inc	39.93	42.31	98.5	113	–	–
† Prolific High Inc	78.26	77.94	99.9	117	80.5	67
† Prosperity Income & Gth	53.50	56.92	98.9	109	78.0	108
Prov Cap Un High Inc Equity	51.75	55.81	101.8	59	80.0	80
† Refuge Equity Inc	207.4	221.9	102.3	43	–	–
Regency Life Branch Inc	53.54	56.84	100.8	78	87.5	27
Royal Life High Inc	94.64	100.3	102.1	43	84.6	47
Royal London Inc & Gth	114.5	123.1	101.8	59	76.1	107
S&P High Return	202.5	215.4	100.7	80	81.5	79
S&P High Yield	165.5	197.3	101.6	59	81.6	78
S&P Scorpions	180.8	206.1	101.5	66	85.9	39
S&P Smir Cos Inc	172.4	183.7	96.4	118	72.2	120
Save & Prosper	244.9	259.4	102.3	42	87.7	25
Schroder Inc	233.5	248.0	104.4	7	91.3	8
† Scot Am Equity Inc	33.48	35.67	95.6	125	76.1	112
† Scot Equit High Inc	26.47	28.28	103.0	26	86.3	17
Scot Mut Income Plus	80.97	84.97	103.2	27	87.4	29
† Scot Widows High Inc	136.5	144.5	100.6	82	78.2	98
† Scottish Life Inc	92.51	98.41	101.3	70	84.2	58
Second Life UK Ex High Inc	32.47	34.52	104.8	2	87.5	26
Sun Alliance Equity Inc	61.98	66.27	104.5	7	85.5	42
Sun Life of Canada UK Inc	30.57	32.70	100.5	83	81.7	73
Sun Life UK Inc	42.68	45.65	102.4	30	84.2	57
Target Inc	92.85	99.88	103.7	13	89.2	18
† TR Income Gth	77.98	83.55	102.0	53	82.1	73
† TSB Extra Inc	148.15	154.5	99.0	110	82.3	62
UTAM Prest House Inc	145.6	154.5	99.0	110	82.3	62
Wardley Inc	113.7	121.8	101.3	70	83.5	54
† Wrights Selsfgood UK Inc	91.79	96.62	104.7	5	92.8	5
† YUTM UK Equity Inc	52.75	56.42	101.1	77	85.1	46
Sector Averages/Totals	–	–	101.0	129	82.8	127

GILT & FIXED INTEREST

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month: perf	rank	1 year: perf	rank
Abbey Capital Reserve	109.8	102.7	101.7	25	114.9	2
Abbey Gilt & Fixed Int	114.4	121.4	102.9	6	102.1	5
Abtrust Gilt & Fi	18.24	17.34	101.4	32	99.8	45
Aviemore Fixed Interest	53.42	56.82	102.6	15	–	–
Aviemore Gilt & Fixed Int	53.42	56.82	102.6	15	–	–
Atkins Preference	94.52	100.1	101.3	28	94.5	6
Atkins Dunbar Bond Secs	29.27	30.78	101.7	25	101.8	3
Barclays Uni Gilt & Fi	50.26	52.13	101.9	25	107.2	15
Barclays Short Dated Gilt	61.31	62.16	100.9	46	110.3	4
Channel Gilt & Fixed Int	36.36	37.91	98.0	54	102.3	33
Clerical Med Gilt & Fi Inc	23.26	24.50	100.4	3	109.0	33
Comhill Gilt & Fixed Int	37.40	38.79	101.5	29	91.2	43
CU Gilt & Fixed Interest	45.42	48.22	103.5	2	104.9	24
CU PPT Invst Acc	77.75	82.21	100.5	44	102.8	20
CU Preference Shares	37.91	39.37	100.8	48	96.3	37
Eagle Star UK Perf & Fi	53.94	57.26	102.5	16	104.1	27
Equitable Gilt & Fixed Int	47.42	49.82	99.6	51	107.2	15
Equity & Law Gilt & Fi	81.77	86.06	102.7	11	107.6	11
Fidelity Gilt & Fixed Int	23.33	25.78	100.7	40	105.7	22
Friends Prov Fixed Int	112.66	118.58	102.7	11	98.5	40
Glenalpine Preference Share	18.48	20.61	97.2	55	74.7	51
GRE Gilt & Fixed Interest	49.11	51.69	102.3	20	102.4	32
Grosvenor Gilt	68.92	71.04	101.5	29	105.0	21
Henderson Fixed Interest	48.48	51.51	102.1	18	102.9	31
Henderson Prf & Gilt	36.57	38.51	99.2	52	73.5	52
Hill Samuel Gilt & Fi Inc	22.44	23.71	100.2	45	97.0	42
Holborn Prefnce Inc	42.14	44.67	101.3	30	102.3	35
† IG Gilt Yield	107.9	113.9	102.5	16	107.9	16
Key Gilts & Fixed Interest	98.28	103.4	102.4	19	102.3	34
LAS Inc Preference	98.44	103.4	99.2	52	–	–
Legal & General Fixed Int	43.12	45.67	102.7	11	102.4	32
Leg

هكذا من الأصل

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Dixons Grp	Drapery,Stores	
2	Bowater	Industrials A-D	
3	Leigh	Chemicals,Plas	
4	Wates	Property	
5	Williams Hldgs	Industrials S-Z	
6	Pearson (ss)	Newspapers,Pub	
7	Heywood Williams	Building,Roads	
8	Provident	Banks,Discount	
9	BSG	Industrials A-D	
10	Kwik Save	Foods	
11	Anglia Sec	Building,Roads	
12	BBA	Industrials A-D	
13	Powerscreen	Incosenials L-R	
14	Auto Sec	Electricals	
15	Telfos	Industrials S-Z	
16	Woodside	Oil,Gas	
17	Land Sec	Property	
18	Wolseley	Industrials S-Z	
19	Ramsay Group	Drapery,Stores	
20	Electrocomponents	Electricals	
21	Kleinwort Benson	Banks,Discount	
22	Diploma	Industrials A-D	
23	Lloyds	Banks,Discount	
24	Dowmo	Electricals	
25	Matthews (Bernard)	Foods	
26	Porals	Industrials L-R	
27	Wilson Bowden	Building,Roads	
28	Evans Of Leeds	Property	
29	Fine Leisure	Leisure	
30	Wellcome	Industrials S-Z	
31	Tibbet & Britten	Transport	
32	Lucas	Motors,Aircraft	
33	Nichols (JN) (Vimto)	Foods	
34	Rowden	Industrials E-K	
35	Boot (Henry)	Building,Roads	
36	Allied Colloids	Chemicals,Plas	
37	Unigate	Foods	
38	Boots	Industrials A-D	
39	CRH	Building,Roads	
40	Yale & Valor	Industrials S-Z	
41	Asda	Property	
42	Kwik-Fit	Motors,Aircraft	
43	Hammerson	Property	
44	Barr (AG)	Foods	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

The £8,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr James Lamb, of Chorley, Lancashire.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Steady end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 28. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day February 11. Settlement day February 18. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio PLATINUM

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND £4,000

Claims required for+248 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BREWERIES

BUILDING, ROADS

ELECTRICITY

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E-K

L-R

S-Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 28

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRANSPORT

WATER

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

S-Z

OILS, GAS

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

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Capel-Wardley merger means some charges rise

By LIZ DOLAN

HIGHER charges are likely for unit holders in two of the 24 trusts involved in the merger between James Capel Unit Trust Management and Wardley Unit Trust Management announced this week.

Jonathon Custance-Baker, Capel Trust's managing director, who will head the combined operation, admits that two of Wardley's 12 trusts, the Australian and International Growth funds, will probably have to lift their annual charges from 1 per cent to James Capel's 1.5 per cent.

However, he points out, other unit holders should gain from the deal. Investors in Wardley's UK Growth and UK Income funds, currently paying an annual charge of 1.5%, should see that reduced to the 1.25% levied by the equivalent James Capel funds. New investors, and existing Wardley investors who buy into new funds, will benefit from James Capel's lower front-end charge, 5.25 per cent, compared with Wardley's 5.75 per cent.

Mr Custance-Baker says that the value of individual investments will not suffer. However, he explains: "Inevitably when you have a merger, there will be a small degree of rationalisation."

Wardley has £110 million funds under management and 26,000 unit holders. James Capel manages exactly double that amount, £220 million, for 15,000 clients. "I would hope that all unit holders will know the proposed timetable for the merger in weeks rather than months," Mr Custance-Baker said. "I genuinely don't know how long it will take because we haven't decided exactly how it will be done. It could be simply one company buying another, but equally it could be achieved by one manager passing funds to another."

Of the 24 funds involved, five from each company are virtually perfect matches: UK Growth, International Growth, European Growth, US Growth and UK Income. They will be amalgamated. The rest will largely remain independent.



Mergers: a match must be made, says Mike Reid

Wardley's four Far East funds – Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia and the two Japanese funds – will be separately managed in the Far East by their existing managers. It is predominantly a Far East specialist. It was set up in Hong Kong in 1973 as a joint venture with Vickers da Costa, subsequently becoming a member of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

James Capel's Far East expertise is comparatively limited. Its Japan Index fund was the 11th worst annual performer of every single unit trust under management, according to *Money Management* magazine.

But, elsewhere, James Capel's fund managers have tended to achieve better results than their opposite numbers at Wardley. Capel's international growth fund was the 38th best performer in the sector over the past two years; Wardley's was 69th over the same period. In the UK equity income sector, James Capel's fund was fifth best performer over two years – Wardley's came 47th.

But Wardley's North American fund achieved 32nd place compared with James Capel's 73rd over two years and it soared to 10th, against Capel's 22nd, over one year.

The merger is part of a wider move by Hongkong Bank, which owns both groups, under which Wardley's UK investment management operation will effectively be swallowed up by Capel. Most of the 75-strong Wardley team are likely to lose their jobs. Capel Trust was set up just two years ago with funds of £28 million.

Some unitholders are unlikely to be fully settled into their new funds for at least a year, judging by the experience of another recent unit trust merger. Commercial Union acquired Royal Trust funds last June, but only this week announced the staged merger of 16 funds to create seven new ones between January 31 and May 31.

Mike Reid, chief executive of Commercial Union Trust Managers, explained that funds cannot be combined without a complete audit carried out at the time of interim or annual results. But, in practice, the funds selected for merger have been managed by the same investment teams since July or August.

"It's just a case of gradually getting the portfolios in each fund to mirror the other before we can combine them properly," Mr Reid said.

BRIEFINGS

☐ John Siddall & Son, the Manchester broker, is offering shareholders in National Power and Powergen a £5 dealing service. Investors who wish to take advantage of the offer must submit their share application forms through the broker.

☐ Borrowers taking out a Lloyds Bank personal loan before April 30 receive a free year's membership in one of two Europ Assistance help services. Home Emergency Service, which normally costs £35 a year, covers call costs and one hour's labour per household emergency. Personal Motoring Service, which usually costs £53, covers expenses including call out charges and one hour's labour, towing costs and a 24-hour legal helpline.

☐ Pointon York, the financial services group, has launched a pension review service that investigates all existing and past schemes, including actual investment performance, charges incurred, general comments and recommendations.

The scheme costs £100 for the first policy and £75 for each subsequent investigation, a charge the firm justifies by giving a host of examples of how often people lose out from badly chosen pension arrangements.

☐ Midland Stockbrokers is offering a "bed and breakfast" share dealing service until the end of the current tax year.

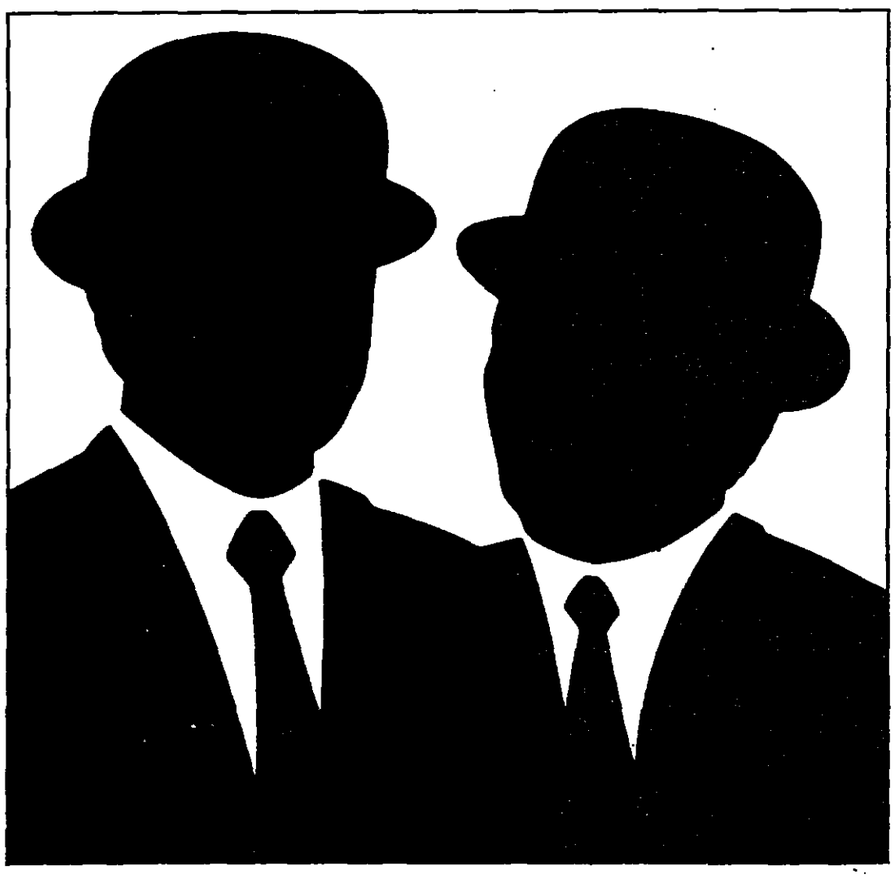
Bed and breakfasting involves selling shares one day and buying them back the next to realise a gain, or loss, depending on their tax requirements. A commission of between £20 and £75 is charged on sales, but not on repurchases, which attract instead a ½% stamp duty.

☐ The first monthly premium in Commercial Union sterling pension plans and free-standing additional voluntary contribution policies will be waived for anyone who takes out a policy before April 5. The offer also applies to increases in contributions to existing policies. CU made the same offer last year.

☐ Norwich and Peterborough Building Society has reopened its Special 85 account, paying a compound interest rate of 11.06 per cent net (14.74 per cent gross) on all money reinvested. Investors may also draw a monthly income that attracts interest of 10.54 per cent net (14.05 per cent gross).

☐ Allied Dunbar has launched a five-year guaranteed income bond offering an annual rate of between 9.25 and 9.75 per cent. The top rate applies to investments of more than £25,000.

EDITED BY SARA MCCONNELL



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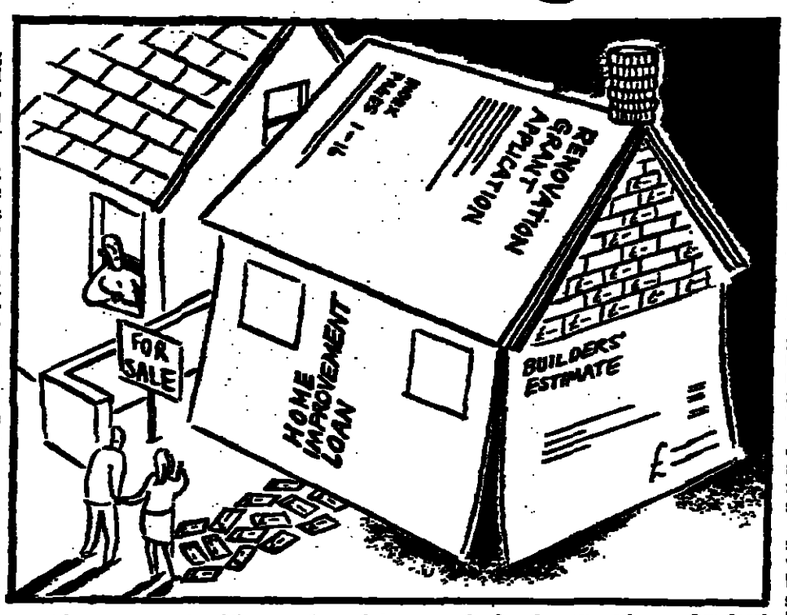
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First-time buyers face a new home renovation grants trap

By CLIVE PARISH



FIRST-time buyers returning to the property market could find themselves caught by new legislation when faced with the cost of renovating their homes.

A system introduced last year leaves many first-time buyers with high mortgage payments in a quandary. They are likely to be ineligible for a grant because their income is too great, and yet they will not get a loan from the banks or building societies because they own too little equity.

Figures from the Department of the Environment (DoE) show that 14,500 grant applications a month were being received after the introduction of the new system.

Pre-1919 properties have long been favoured by first-time buyers as a cheaper way of entering the housing market. The profit they make on improving their homes helps them climb the property ladder, refurbishing the nation's housing stock in the process.

But new legislation has altered the way the money is targeted.

Under the old system, grants were allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. So long as the local authority had the funds and the rateable value of the property was not above a certain level, the home owner could expect up to 90 per cent of the cost of renovations.

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which came into force last July, targets funds at groups such as the elderly and poor rather than property. Mandatory grants, for which councils must contribute, are available where a property is considered unfit for human habitation. Discretionary grants leave the decision to the local authority, based on its own housing priorities. But either way, applicants for a renovation grant face a means test and the prospect of filling in a 16-page application form.

Those on income support contribute nothing to the cost of repairs or improvements, as do those whose financial resources are considered inadequate to meet their "basic needs." But if their income is greater, the amount left over is used to calculate the size of loan the applicant is believed to be able to afford. This is then deducted from the cost of the works. The remainder makes up any grant.

The Halifax Building Society, Britain's largest mortgage lender, reports that last year, until January 1990, it lent a record £1.16 billion in home improvement loans, and that the boom continued at the same level until July, when the new grant system started. A Halifax spokesman said the society could not assess the number of loans made in conjunction with grants until 12 months had elapsed.

But according to Steve Battersby, an environmental health consultant monitoring the new scheme, few local authorities make discretionary grants. "I have only come across one or two councils that have sufficient capital resources," said Mr Battersby.

"But the major problem given by authorities everywhere is the first-time buyer and the failure of the means test to take account of their housing costs.

"That's the problem with any means test. There's always the risk that you don't target resources any better, either because people fall into a poverty trap or they simply lose out."

The Department of the Environment has confirmed that a local authority review group will look at the means test and the resource implications of the new system. It will make its recommendations later this year.

"We are aware of the needs of first-time buyers, but it's too early to say how a change to the system would help," said a DoE spokeswoman.

"It's not right that people should expect to get a grant when their mortgage offer is being made. Under the old system sellers were able to keep their price by suggesting the property was eligible for a grant. And people were able to do up properties to pay for their next move. That's not necessarily the best way to spend public funds."

NatWest extends touchscreen to all

By LIZ DOLAN

NATIONAL Westminster Bank is extending its touchscreen share dealing service to non-customers. From Monday, anyone can buy or sell through the service, which has increased the number of shares on offer from 250 to 550.

The bank decided to extend the service because non-customers accounted for 40 per cent of those using its special privatisation offers, which are already open to all, said Neil Stapley, managing director of NatWest Stockbrokers.

NatWest is also stopping its instant cheque payments for shares in the 12 regional electricity companies. Mr Stapley said: "Shareholders will still be able to sell electricity shares at our special £17 minimum dealing price for the foreseeable future, but now they will have to wait until the next Stock Exchange settlement day before they get their cheques."

That is the method of payment already used for all other touchscreen transactions. They cost £25, or 1.65 per cent of the first £5,000, whichever is the greater.

NatWest launched its first touchscreen share dealing service after British Gas came to the market in December 1986. It did the same thing after every privatisation until December 1988 when the service became a permanent fixture, trading in popular shares in 278 of NatWest's 3,000-strong branch network.

Power register

IN LAST Saturday's Weekend Money we reported that the register of applications for shares in PowerGen and National Power was closed. In fact applicants have until Midnight on February 15.

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Fast act can rub gilt off transfer

By DIANE BOLIVER



THE most natural reaction to redundancy is the desire to sever all links with the offending company. But while interest rates are high, members of final salary company pension schemes should consider leaving their preserved pension rights behind.

Legally, departing employees must be provided with a pension transfer value. Only those who have been in a scheme for less than two years can take a refund of their contributions.

In calculating the transfer value, actuaries must work out what lump sum would need to be invested in the current investment climate to provide the promised benefits at retirement. While interest rates are high, estimated returns on investment will be greater and therefore the transfer value will be lower.

Transfer values could rise by as much as 50 per cent if interest rates drop by 2 per cent and have the same knock-on effect on gilts. Actuaries use the gilt yield as a measurement tool when calculating transfer values.

Ron Spill, pensions controller at *Legal & General*, is reluctant to make that assumption, but cites the example of a man, aged 45, earning £21,000 with 20 years' service in a scheme paying one-sixtieth of final salary.

"If he lost his job today his preserved pension rights would be £7,000 and assuming a 5 per cent annual increase between now and retirement, his transfer value would be £33,300," said Mr Spill.

A 2 per cent interest rate fall tomorrow would give it a dramatic 50 per cent boost to £49,950.

Mr Spill argues that trying to forecast the Chancellor's next move is difficult and sticks by his theory "when in doubt transfer out", on the basis that personal pension plans, which are substantially equity based, will provide a better return than gilts over the long term.

Roger Key, partner with R Watson & Sons, the actuary, said a 2 per cent fall in interest rates tomorrow would mean a 20 to 25 per cent rise in transfer values, but added that an interest cut would not necessarily mean a reduction in gilt yields.

But Gillian Mainds, pensions expert at Fiona Price & Partners, the independent financial adviser, thinks differently.

"The first thing your old employer will want you to do is to take your preserved pension rights with you. Recent legislation has put extra burdens on final salary schemes and made them a much greater liability to employers," she said.

"There is nothing to lose by sticking with the scheme and leaving your options open until you find another job and have had time to assess the new company's scheme, a personal pension or a section 32 buyout.

"Legally you have until one or two years before retirement to make a decision, but often people are panicked into leaving a scheme when they receive notice from the scheme trustees. It will state that the transfer value is only guaranteed for three months. All that means is a fresh transfer valuation will be necessary beyond that date, not that they have to transfer into a new scheme before then," said Miss Maines.

One requirement of the Social Security Act 1990 forces companies to revalue all pensions earned before 1985. This has already provided enormous benefits to those who postponed leaving pension schemes until after January 1 this year.

Before January, job changers only had pension benefits earned after 1985 revalued each year, in line with the retail price index or 5 per cent, whichever was lower.

But still unresolved is the question of pension fund surpluses and the equalisation of pension ages.

Employers will soon be forced to unload any pension fund surpluses for the general benefit of scheme members, but this is not likely to happen for some time as no date has yet been set.

Before they can cream off money they will have to revalue any pensions relating to service after, and possibly before, this date, again to a maximum of 5 per cent. This could have a big impact on transfer values for those in schemes that guarantee little protection but carry a big surplus.

Managed pension funds take a pounding overseas

By HELEN PRIDHAM

DESPITE uncertain stock-market conditions, investment in personal pension policies has continued at a high level. Many insurance companies report buoyant sales during 1990.

Policyholders often do not think of their pension as a stock market investment, yet most plans have some exposure to shares. Recently, more unit-linked pension contracts have been sold than traditional with-profits policies. Latest figures indicate that six out of ten regular premium personal pension contracts currently being taken out are unit-linked.

Such contracts offer a choice of investment funds in which policyholders can build up their pension Typically, these include funds which specialise in UK and overseas shares, commercial property, fixed-interest securities and cash deposits. And some companies have introduced other specialist funds, such as Far Eastern funds.

But generally, managed funds are the most popular. They invest in a mixture of assets – equities, property and fixed interest securities – with professional fund managers deciding on the most appropriate balance.

A significant appeal of managed funds is the assumption that, while they will benefit from rising share prices, the presence of a property and fixed-interest content will give them stability and limit falls in unit values.

However, surveys of personal pension past performance published in *Planned Savings*, the specialist magazine, reveal that managed funds are not necessarily producing the middle ranking performance expected of them, at least over shorter terms. Returns on a lump sum investment in a personal pension contract taken out five years ago show that in the case of National Provident Institution (NPI), for example, the managed fund result was the lowest of the five fund payouts the company produced.

At several other companies, including Clerical Medical, Friends Provident, Prudential Holborn and Scottish Widows, the managed fund payout was the second to lowest among their respective funds.

Many managed funds are, in fact, probably more heavily invested in shares than investors imagine. Equities typically account for 70 to 75 per cent of the fund and in recent years the overseas content as a proportion of this exposure has increased steadily. These factors have tended to work against the funds over the past year as the value of overseas markets fell, while property has kept relatively stable.

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LETTERS

Banks put out propaganda

From Mr Michael Lee

Sir, Every time I read articles such as Sara McConnell's "Lloyds leads way to higher rates on credit cards" an embryo of rage seems to develop within me. Articles like this play into the hands of the banks in conditioning private customers to accept absurd charges.

I am sure the current justifications of fraud, bad debts etc., that the banks are making for their charges has changed little since credit cards were first introduced. The simple facts are: the use of credit cards has escalated which has obviously increased revenue; this revenue has been further compounded by inflation; and cost increases should have been controlled by improvements in technology.

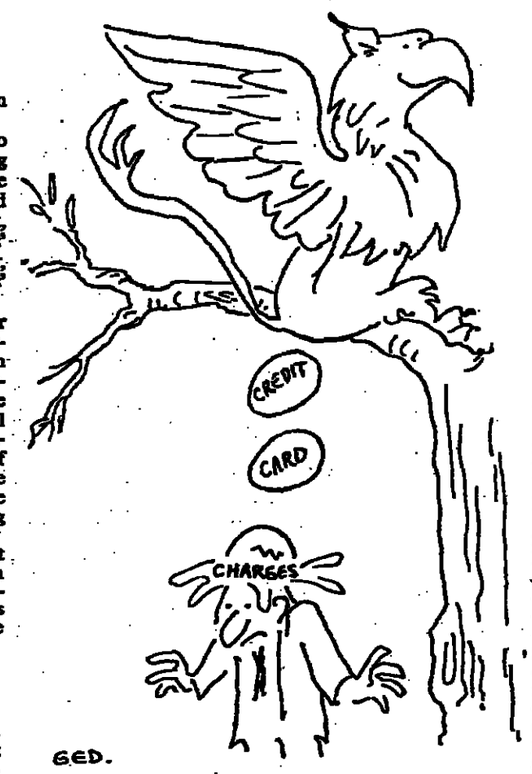
The banks earn revenue prima facie by deducting retailers about 3 per cent from their gross sales. I would not be surprised if banks argue that the 3 per cent is absorbed in covering their "administration costs". This revenue is always completely ignored in justification of their charges.

Banks are always quick to pull out their marketing propaganda: 56 days' free credit; purchase cover; and international cover. In fact, customers only get 56 days' free credit on 12 days per year, giving an average of 40 days' free credit.

The purchase cover is never well explained until a customer tries to use it, when he/she finds unexpected obstacles, including that the cover only applies after all other insurance has been exhausted. The significance of international rescue must be so small that it should be dismissed as a pure marketing gimmick.

Finally, I can but laugh at the nonsense put forward on bad debts and fraud. Any business is subject to these costs but most develop appropriate systems to control them.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL W.N. LEE,
36 Earlswood Street,
Greenwich SE10.



GED.

Free credit

From Mr Peter Middleton,

Sir, Last week's article "higher interest rates on credit cards" left me with the feeling that the banks have only themselves to blame for their apparent sorry plight.

For years they have bombarded us with the notion that "plastic" is the only sensible way to pay.

TSB's Ron Whatford's suggestion therefore that "the existing system is iniquitous for interest payers because they are subsidising the free credit period for those who pay in full" is rather curious. Banks have always emphasised accounts cleared in full attract no charges, thus allowing up to 56 days' interest free credit.

As your article pointed out, credit card users are becoming more sophisticated – and it seems they are beginning to bite back.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MIDDLETON,
1 Albany Road,
Wimbledon,
SW19.

From Dr J.D. Jackson

Sir, Why don't the banks who are agonising over charging for the use of their credit cards, but are reluctant to lose their customers' goodwill, add a fee, say 75p to each monthly statement, presuming that there is a balance to pay?

The aggravation comes from paying for something up front which one may or may not use.

Yours faithfully,
J.D. JACKSON,
35 Queens Road,
Blandford Forum,
Dorset.

Societies clinging to obsolete accounts

From J.E. Rednall

Sir, I read with interest the letter from the Rev V.S. Singh (Weekend Money, February 2). The Nationwide is not the only offender.

I had investments in the Alliance and Leicester's one-month and six-month accounts. Last November the rate of interest on these accounts (by then "obsolete") was reduced by 1.25 per cent when the rate on current accounts was reduced by 1 per cent.

The rate on the one-month account became 9.4 per cent compared with 9.5 per cent on the current instant access account.

Notices were not posted in branches and (as I had found from bitter experience) I had to find the new rates by asking the staff.

It is surely highly inequitable to reduce the rate on obsolete accounts by more than that on current accounts, and worse still not to give any adequate publicity to the fact.

This seems even more objectionable in the case of long-notice accounts where one cannot switch into higher-paying current accounts without penalty.

It seems that there is in theory nothing to prevent a society trapping an investor into a long notice account by the promise of higher interest and then reducing that rate to an unrealistic and uncompetitive level.

I must, however, add that the Alliance and Leicester have allowed me to convert my six-month account into their Tessa which pays a higher rate of interest with a lower notice period.

Yours faithfully,
J.E. REDNALL,
The Senge House,
Farm Lane,
Ditchling,
Sussex.

● Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should always be sought before making any investment.

Unacceptable loss

From T.A. Briselden

Sir, The letter from the Rev Singh concerning the Nationwide Building Society prompts me to relate a further instance of what I consider is an unacceptable practice.

My 87-year-old mother, who has a considerable holding in a 90-day account, went to her branch to deposit a further large sum.

Having completed the transaction she was immediately informed that interest was being reduced by 1 per cent per month and it would be advisable if she closed her account and opened another. To carry out business in this way caused my mother considerable distress.

Needless to say I have advised my mother to withdraw all her money as soon as she is able without losing interest, and to open an account with another building society who will hopefully have a more acceptable attitude to their investors.

Yours faithfully,
T.A. BRISELDEN,
The Firs,
Chipperfield Common,
Kings Langley,
Watford,
Hertfordshire.

Nursing home fees tax plea

From Mrs Pamela Excell

Sir, I read the article in *The Times* last Saturday pleading for tax relief for parents with young children, who have to pay fees for child-minding.

May I make a plea for the many old married couples who have to pay very expensive nursing home fees, should one of them need permanent care. They have tax relief on subscriptions for medical insurance but this cannot cover the cost of permanent care.

They have paid taxes all their adult lives, so surely they should have a share of any tax relief which can be afforded in this year's Budget?

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA EXCELL,
9 Sea Walls,
Sea Walls Road,
Bristol, Avon.

Pocketing the lot

From Mr Peter Coates

Sir, In the spirit of free enterprise, Mrs Millard (February 2), who has had such difficulty with building societies and the Post Office over pocket money accounts should consider setting up her own pocket money bank.

This solution has some real advantages: it enables one to give pocket money to one's children and then spend it oneself! In times of shortage of change we have resorted to sleight of hand: tooth fairy money being deposited, pocketed, redispensed as pocket money and redeposited in a matter of 30 seconds.

My only qualm about the scheme is that it is potentially inflationary.

Yours faithfully,
PETER COATES,
Whincroft,
Upper Colquhoun Street,
Helensburgh,
Strathclyde.

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes

Share No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+5	+7	+5	+3	+6		
2	+8	+4	+4	+2	+6		
3	+8	+4	+9	+1	+5		
4	+8	+8	+4	+4	+4		
5	+7	+5	+8	+3	+4		
6	+6	+4	+4	+1	+5		
7	+9	+3	+7	+2	+7		
8	+7	+7	+6	+4	+5		
9	+7	+4	+8	+3	+4		
10	+7	+4	+8	+4	+7		
11	+9	+3	+7	+3	+7		
12	+9	+6	+7	+2	+3		
13	+8	+4	+6	+2	+9		
14	+6	+4	+5	+2	+6		
15	+5	+8	+5	+3	+4		
16	+8	+5	+8	+2	+4		
17	+6	+8	+5	+4	+5		
18	+8	+4	+7	+1	+3		
19	+7	+2	+8	+3	+7		
20	+6	+8	+4	+3	+6		
21	+8	+6	+9	+2	+3		
22	+7	+3	+5	+2	+5		
23	+8	+4	+7	+4	+6		
24	+6	+3	+4	+2	+5		
25	+5	+9	+5	+6	+6		
26	+9	+5	+7	+1	+5		
27	+9	+5	+7	+2	+6		
28	+6	+2	+5	+3	+6		
29	+5	+9	+6	+5	+5		
30	+8	+3	+6	+1	+5		
31	+9	+5	+7	+3	+4		
32	+7	+3	+5	+3	+7		
33	+8	+3	+8	+2	+6		
34	+6	+7	+4	+4	+4		
35	+6	+7	+6	+3	+5		
36	+8	+6	+7	+3	+7		
37	+7	+2	+6	+2	+7		
38	+8	+4	+9	+4	+8		
39	+8	+4	+9	+2	+3		
40	+8	+4	+6	+2	+6		
41	+5	+9	+4	+5	+5		
42	+7	+6	+8	+2	+5		
43	+8	+4	+6	+3	+7		
44	+8	+8	+5	+2	+8		

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*Planned Savings survey of regular annual contribution with-profits personal pension plans June 1990.

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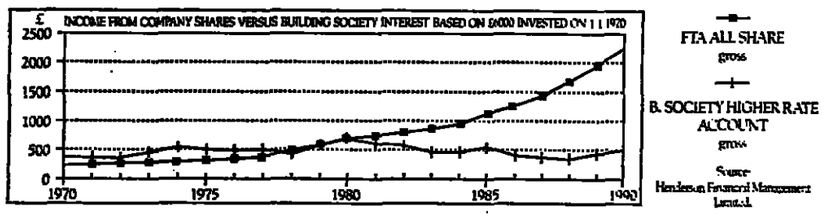
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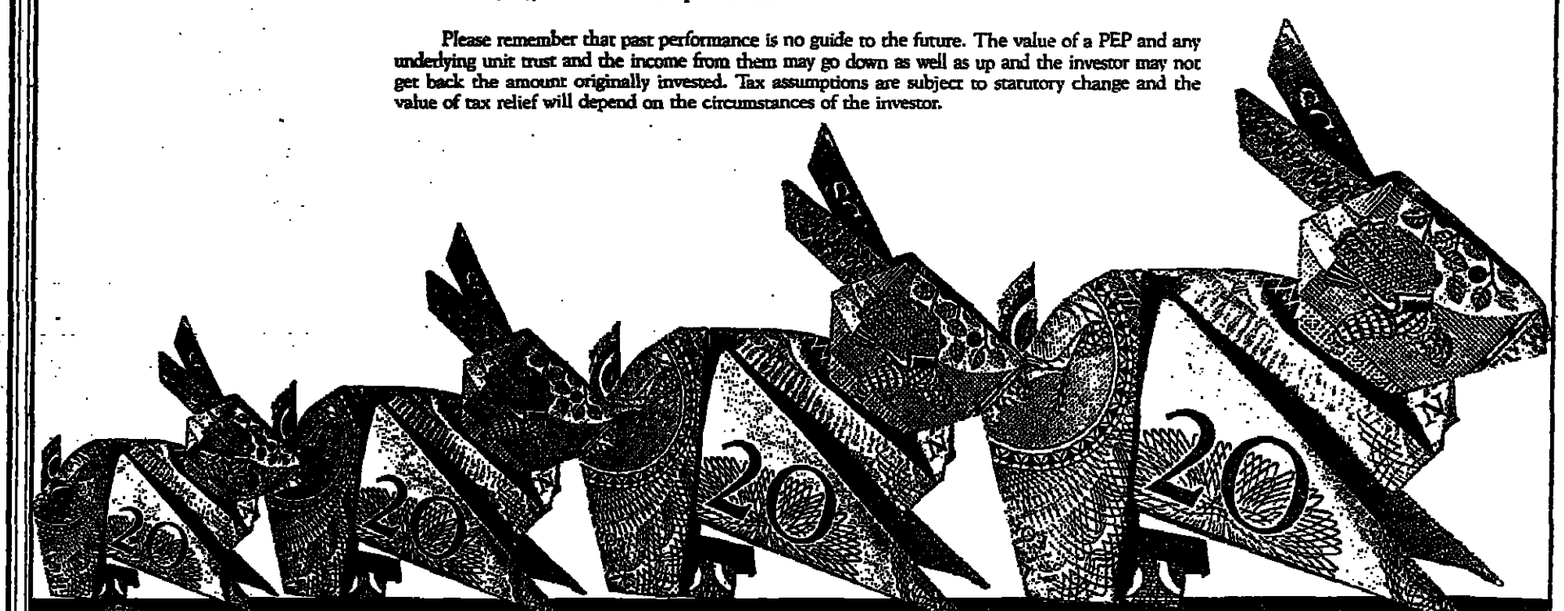


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COMMENT

SIR GORDON BORRIE
DIRECTOR GENERAL, FAIR TRADING

In an ideal world there would be no need for redress schemes or complaints procedures. The telephone in the unused complaints office would remain forever dusty.

Life, of course, is not like that. A survey that my office commissioned in November showed that more than 40 per cent of the adult population had had some cause for complaint about goods or services they had bought or paid for over the previous 12 months, some concerning more than one item.

Many complaints will be unjustified, but it is also clear that, without persistence and determination, all too many simply fall by the wayside. A very small proportion of grievances about goods or services – less than 3 per cent – receive attention from such admirable bodies as citizens' advice bureaux and local authority trading standards departments. And a truly minuscule number reach any of the redress schemes that exist to resolve consumer disputes.

The National Consumer Council has calculated that in 1987 fewer than 12,500 consumer claims were handled by the small claims procedure of the county courts. Even if that figure has doubled it is not an impressive total. Only 1,900 complaints were dealt with last year by the insurance ombudsman. Only 1,500 complaints were handled by the conciliation section of the Retail Motor Industry Federation. Some of the arbitration schemes offered by consumer codes of practice seem never to have been used.

I have always believed that it is healthy and desirable that a variety of dispute settlement schemes should be available for consumer disputes, and indeed many such schemes have blossomed.

First, there are the small claims procedures that have been established within the civil court systems. They can handle almost all kinds of disputed claim – the county court scheme deals with claims up to £500 (up to £1,000 from later this year). Efforts are being made to make the small claims courts as user-friendly as possible – and the rule that protects consumers who lose against paying the other side's lawyers' bills, is an important bonus.

Alongside the courts, various schemes of "alternative dispute resolution" have been set up. Many trade associations offer some sort of conciliation service for consumers in dispute with one of their members. Independent arbitration can overcome some of the perceived drawbacks of court action or provide a redress procedure tailor-made for a particular sector and benefiting from the specialist knowledge of those administering it.

A more recent type of scheme is the institution of the ombudsman. Although our research shows that many people think there is a single ombudsman, there are now many. Apart from those dealing with complaints about government or health services, there are now ombudsmen for insurance, banks and building societies, legal services, pensions and corporate estate agents.

The Eighties also saw the emergence of the regulators of the privatised utilities. I wonder whether the multiplicity of schemes could bring problems as well as benefits for consumers.

Is there a risk that, without adequate guidance, the public will be confused? If some schemes fall below a threshold of acceptability, will there be a devaluation of public confidence in all schemes? Should those directly involved be learning more from each other about their strengths and weaknesses? If so, how should they do this? Should there be a regular forum to bring together a wide range of people involved in consumer dispute resolution? I know that the ombudsman give each other advice and support, but should they also meet arbitrators and district judges to discuss matters of common interest?

I am concerned that so few members of the public are prepared to press for their right to redress, and, in particular, that they are reluctant to use the courts. Every day my office receives letters and telephone calls from members of the public asking me to intervene in what are essentially civil disputes, where I have no power to act. Quite often it is apparent that they know that they are entitled to go to court, or to use another means of redress. But there is a reluctance to use the avenues that are available.

What are the reasons for this? Do people think the courts, for instance, are too expensive? Or just too difficult? I don't know, but this view of the courts is certainly not shared by all those who have used them. One person taking part in discussion groups which my office commissioned said of the small claims procedure: "I was shocked at how easy it was, I couldn't believe it."

Somehow the courts, and all the other consumer redress schemes, must get this message over to the public. Access to justice is not achieved just by the setting up of a scheme. Each scheme must be designed, and must be run and promoted, in ways that ensure that it is truly meeting the needs of those – customers and businesses – who are its consumers.

Revenue smooths the path to easier switching of Peps

By PAUL NUKI

THE Inland Revenue has bowed to pressure from unit trust companies, announcing a change that makes transferring a personal equity plan (Pep) from one manager to another easier and cheaper.

Before the change, investors who attempted to move their plans to more competitive managers often found their way barred by high costs and unwilling providers because the Inland Revenue insisted the investment structure of the new Pep had initially to replicate that of the original.

This did not matter if plan managers were exchanging equity certificates, but it affected all cash transactions where the structure and objectives changed. Most Pep providers insist on dealing in cash.

If they wanted to transfer from, say, an equity-only Pep to a more stable plan, investing 50 per cent in equities and 50 per cent in unit trusts, the original Pep manager had to liquidate the equity portfolio, with the cash being transferred to the new plan manager. The new plan manager then had to invest the whole portfolio temporarily in equities to comply with the replication rule. Investors had to wait 24 hours before this unwanted stock was sold and the correct proportion of the proceeds invested in unit trusts.

After launching its free transfer facility at the beginning of January, Framlington was forced to write to investors pointing out not only that this procedure was complicated, but that it entailed significant extra costs that detracted from the benefits.

Once stamp duty, dealing charges and the price spread on the unwanted equities were accounted for, investors stood to lose up to £100 on a £3,000 transaction, in addition to any fixed exit and entry costs. There was also an overnight stock market risk.

Companies such as Fidelity, which does not accept incoming transfers, said existing policies would be reviewed.

Victoria Philip, Fidelity's corporate marketing manager, said Fidelity was still checking the detail of the Inland Revenue's announcement but it looked positive.

She added: "Assuming everything goes OK, we will be reassessing our transfer policy. In theory we are very much behind the view that people would need to transfer from one plan manager to another as their risk profile changes."

Anne McMeehan, Framlington's marketing director, said: "I think this could open up the marketplace, giving dissatisfied investors greater flexibility to shop around.

"They now have the means, as well as the right, to move. And I think that as Peps increase in value and people's aims change with time, we will see an increasingly mobile market . . . the Revenue have set the ground."

Tim Miller, M&G's group marketing director, while welcoming the change, said that "true manoeuvrability" would be achieved only if the limit on unit trust investment in Peps was raised to match the £6,000 maximum for equities.

At present only 50 per cent of a Pep's initial value can be invested in unit or investment trusts. If, over time, this limit is exceeded, investors should be aware that even under the new guidelines a transfer would set the investor back to square one.

Diagnosing private health costs

By SARA MCCONNELL

REPORTS of long waits for operations and cost-cutting on the National Health Service may tempt people to take out private medical insurance to get quicker treatment.

The cheapest form of private medical insurance covers the cost of private care if patients would otherwise have a long wait on the NHS. A patient can go into a private hospital immediately if his or her doctor says the waiting list is longer than the waiting time specified in the policy. However, cover on these budget plans vary considerably.

Mike Williams, healthcare marketing manager at Orion Healthcare, said: "The main variations are on upfront treatment, where some plans cover diagnosis and outpatient care and others will not. The premiums reflect these limitations."

Some companies limit the cover by setting an overall limit on the amount the policy will pay out each year. The Private Hospital Plan, a product of the Private Patients Plan (PPP) group, covers those who would otherwise have to wait six weeks for treatment on the NHS. It will not pay more than £8,000 in a year to cover all costs of outpatient and in-patient treatment and all surgical procedures. This goes up to £16,000 for people needing in-patient open heart surgery or cosmetic treatment after an accident. The plan pays a cash benefit of £26 a night if policyholders get treatment on the NHS.



Insuring for health: but patients should check what their policies cover them for

Christopher Johnson, general manager of strategic communications at PPP, said: "People do want the NHS to be good and it works brilliantly in an emergency. But it doesn't score with things like waiting lists. People can wait a number of years for treatment for coronary artery bypass operations, hysterectomies and hip replacements."

Western Provident Association (WPA) also has a limit of £8,000 a year on its Spruce scheme, which doubles to £16,000 if the doctor operating says there are complications. Policyholders can choose to go private if the NHS waiting time is more than six weeks.

Such plans do not restrict patients to certain hospitals and will pay for expenses incurred within the yearly limit. However, a spokeswoman for PPP said anyone choosing an expensive London teaching hospital for treatment that could be obtained locally would see their £8,000 annual limit run out quickly.

Plans with these cash limits tend to be among the cheapest. A 39-year-old would pay £12.70 a month for Private Hospital Plan while a 50-year-old would pay £17.50. A 40-year-old would pay £11.40 a month for Spruce and a 50-year-old £13.20.

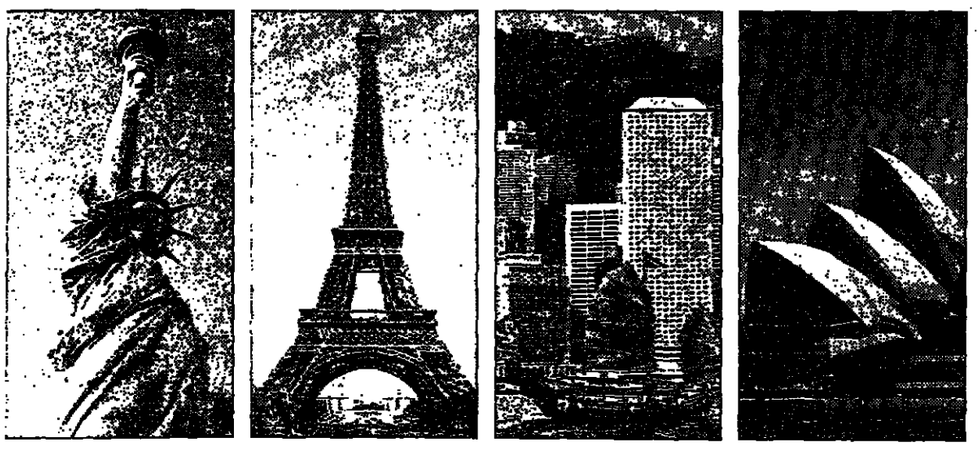
Norwich Union does not impose an overall cash limit. But it will only pay the full cost of treatment in one of its 300 selected hospitals. Premiums on its Selectcare policy, which pays out if the waiting list is more than six weeks long, vary in regions, London being the most expensive.

Those prepared to wait 12 months before resorting to private care will pay less with Norwich Union's Selectcare policy. Londoners would pay £12.58, while people in region two would pay £7.86.

Bupa, the largest private medical insurer, also limits patients to its 90 selected hospitals. But it is almost alone in not offering a scheme connected to NHS waiting lists. Instead, Bupa has a low cost scheme, Budget Bupa. This has a limit of £15,000 a year and costs £14.79 a month for a 40-year-old.

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The man who was booed at the Booker

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

—BUSINESS— PROFILE

Terry Maher

Terry Maher is the bête noir of the book trade. The man in the Yves St Laurent suits and the flash spectacles is upsetting the sedate and sometimes snobbish world of publishing. He was booed at the Booker dinner. It is a role he appears to relish, perhaps to a disquieting extent.

As chairman and chief executive of Pentos, the group which owns Dillons and Hatchards bookshops as well as Ryman, the stationer, and Athena, the books, cards and poster shop, he has increasing clout in the world of book selling. He has 11 per cent of the British market and has plans to take that to 15 per cent by 1994.

He also has ambitions to smash the net book agreement, an arrangement between publishers and booksellers that allows publishers to set minimum prices on whichever titles they choose. It is this campaign which has won him enemies in the book trade. They believe the abolition of the NBA will force small booksellers out of business and lead to the promotion of cut-price trash at the expense of quality books. Mr Maher believes it will lead to larger sales at lower prices.

Few now doubt that he will succeed in wrecking the NBA, although five years ago it was almost unthinkable. But Maher is a man of enormous determination who is prepared to force issues and who is not frightened of going out on a limb. He is very competitive both inside and outside business, a resourceful and self-contained man. He can be prickly.

Barbara, his wife of 31 years, says: "He has never been frightened of a challenge. He's a very controlled person. I think initially people find him a little bit daunting or forbidding. He has a certain reserve but once you get to know him, he is very warm. He has a strong character and is enormously enthusiastic. Like all ambitious, talented people he can be difficult to live with sometimes."

Michael Cave, a broker with Carr, Kitkat & Aitken, who has had a long working relationship with Maher, says: "He's a very capable fellow. He always does his homework and expects others to do the same. He's a tough taskmaster, a serious person, very determined. He is always scrupulously correct. He lives and dreams his business but he enjoys his life and is a jolly good host. He does sometimes come across as a stern person and when it comes to humour he's probably not an extrovert, but I think that is because he is basically shy."

Maher's determination has its roots in his grim childhood. He was born in 1935 into a Catholic family in the slums of Manchester, the son of Herbert and Lillian Maher. His mother died from a kidney complaint when he was aged 11. "I hardly remember my mother and that's sad. I do remember her dying, she had been sick for a long time. After she died I looked after the house and did the cooking and the shopping."

His father had been in the army during the war years and worked for the *Manchester Guardian* as a printer. He died 12 years ago but his relationship with his son was never close. Maher describes him as a sad figure who never fully recovered from the death of his mother. He was not domesticated.

"It was a fairly poor upbringing. My father earned money, but he spent it." Maher and his younger brother were brought up intermittently by their grandmother, whom he says was strong. "In our family the women were very strong but the men very weak."

Two years after the death of his mother, Maher contracted tuberculosis which was then a killer. He was in hospital for a year, which seriously disrupted his education at Xaverian College, the boys' Catholic grammar school that numbers Anthony Burgess among its ex-pupils. Prior to the illness he had been top in most subjects.

"I had no schooling at all when I was in hospital, the teachers didn't visit, and I never quite caught up. After the illness I didn't put in the effort, I'm aware of that. I'd lost my mother but I'd have thought it was the year in hospital which was the thing that set me back. It was a good school and I was happy there. Then came this year away which was a tragedy for me. If I'd tried harder I could have caught up. I still can't understand why I allowed myself to drift."

Maher says he cannot remember being unhappy or lonely though he did not form any close relationships in his childhood and cannot remember doing things for fun. "People adapt," he says. He is not bitter in any way about the toughness of his childhood, which his wife says was a character-building experience for him.

He left school at 16 with some O-levels and, knowing national service was on the horizon, decided to join the RAF six months early. The RAF doctor discovered TB had reappeared and sent him off to hospital for a second year. On leaving he was told he would not be able to work or lead a normal life but idleness did not suit his temperament and he found part time work with a Manchester accountant. "I didn't have a clue what an accountant did but I was highly numerate and it seemed unbelievably easy work". Before long he was working full time and studying in the evenings for his accountancy qualification.

It was the time of the Suez crisis and he developed an interest in politics, joining the Young Liberals. "I'm a natural Liberal," he says. "I only have to be in a room full of Conservatives to know I'm not a Conservative. It's an emotional thing as well as a rational thing." Politics soon took over and he stood for Parliament twice, the first time when he was 24. He published political pamphlets, spoke at a meetings almost every night and wrote regularly for the *Manchester Guardian*. He remains a Liberal Democrat trustee.

"Politics was important in building my self-confidence. I was fairly shy as a child and it was a way of overcoming shyness. I feel as strongly about the Liberal Party now as I first did. I think the party's recent ills are largely due to David Owen and I would strongly resist his joining the Liberal Party."

It was through the Young Liberals that he met Barbara whom he married in 1960. She was born in Berlin, the daughter of an eminent psychiatrist and was studying textile design at art college in Manchester when they met. Shortly afterwards she won a scholarship to study in Rome. They married when she returned. Barbara has since written several cookery books, cakes being her speciality.

A desire to move into industry took him out of accountancy in 1961. He joined Carborundum, an American multinational, where he flourished for seven years. Before long he had joint responsibility for the group's business in Britain. He was then asked if he would go to America and work in head office. At the same time he was approached by Pat Matthews with the offer of a job at his thrusting new bank, First National Finance Corporation. The job was to establish financial controls and invest in small industrial companies. The move took him to London for the first time. He was 34.

Three years after he left FNFC the group fell apart in the secondary banking crisis of 1975. The shares slumped to 2p and the Bank of England stepped in with a £350 million rescue package. While at FNFC he became increasingly interested in the investment side of the business and in January 1972 he left to set up on his own, forming Pentos, a £100 off-the-shelf company. "I've been very lucky, it's been a great business and a super job," he says.

Maher soon gained a reputation for spotting highly fragmented, badly-managed companies with growth potential. Pentos became a mini-conglomerate and book retailing was an area into which it moved early on. The group gained a stock market quote by reversing into The Cape Town & District Gas Light & Coke Company. Throughout the Seventies Pentos was one of Britain's best-performing shares. "It was the kiss of death. Never have too much media coverage," says Maher.

The one deal too many was Caplan, an office furniture business acquired in 1979. The accounts showed that the group was making profits but in reality it was making losses. The damage, according to Maher, brought Pentos to its knees. "We had a major problem," he says. "It took a lot of my time. We had too sue everyone involved. At the same time we had the kind of recession we are having now. We went into the recession with a high amount of our business in engineering and construction, our borrowings were higher than they should have been and we had this Caplan problem. We would not have had an easy time even without Caplan. We dealt with the problem by becoming more narrowly focused, which would probably have happened in any case." Ironically Caplan is one of the few businesses Pentos kept.

Dillons was bought from The University of London in 1977 for £650,000. The main shop was in Gower Street, central London, and the business was losing money. Maher brought in the designer Rodney Fitch to help transform the shop. His brief was simply to create the finest bookshop in the world on a budget of £1 million, but the final cost was double that. "We should have spent £2.5 million," says Maher. "Sales this year will be £20 million. We'll make £3.5 million profit from that bookshop alone. It is the most profitable bookshop in the world."

Today there are 55 Dillons book stores with annual sales of £80 million and all have been refurbished to the same high standard. While no-one would deny that the shops are beautiful, opinion is divided as to the merits of spending £2 million on shopfitting.

Paul Morris, an analyst with Goldman Sachs, says the group is yet to enjoy the fruits of its capital investment programme but he is aware others believe the group will never see an adequate return on its heavy capital investment in book retailing. Mr Morris forecasts group pre-tax profits of £15 million for the year to last December.

Maher has a high profile in the book world over his stance on the NBA, but the issue which bothers him most is book distribution. "There is absolutely no reason why books cannot be delivered within 48 to 72 hours. Distribution continues to be the major problem," he says. "I mustn't knock the book trade too much. If it hadn't been so appalling we would never have had the opportunity we've had."

"No one's been rude to my face," he says. "I've no doubt that behind my back people suggest that our approach is the approach of the Philistine. Some would like to think I don't read books or have an interest in literature but most people in the book trade aren't like that. It's basic inertia and timidity and fear of WH Smith."

He believes the NBA will be broken in the next few months. "I believe it will wither on the vine. Fifty-five per cent of the people who come into our shops to buy a promoted book will buy at least one other book and will spend on average £12." He says he will take a new initiative soon. His plans to discount the Booker shortlist failed when the publishers of the books took out an injunction. Maher says he had the tacit approval of the publishers in advance of the exercise.

Maher does not like sloppiness in any form and is not beyond sending a fund manager who has not done his homework properly into the corridor to read the Pentos report and accounts before asking questions.

"I do have a temper occasionally and I can get irritated," says Maher. "I don't like people making mistakes and I can't stand people defending the indefensible. I lead a very full life and I like being busy all the time."

Maher is enjoying all the activities he was deprived of as a child. He says his second childhood started at 34 when he took up football and skiing. He now skis three times a year. Football was replaced with tennis five years ago and he has a coaching session every Saturday for one hour. "I'm a good skier, not so good at tennis," he says. "But I'm determined to get good. I'm slightly below average at present."

He also enjoys good food — Barbara is renowned for her cooking — and wine, about which he is said to be knowledgeable. But his trim figure is a testimony to his self-control. Maher looks more like 45 than 55. Reading is another passion he came to late in life. Anthony Burgess is a favourite author, *Earthly Powers* a favourite book. He also enjoys William Boyd and John Le Carré.

He has three sons: Nicholas, aged 30, Anthony, aged 28, and Jeremy, aged 27. The elder two have jobs in retailing, the younger is a foreign exchange dealer in New York. Some of his friends believe he is a strict father. Barbara says: "He was very ambitious for his sons. He was an excellent father when they were little, not so good at coping with them when they were teenagers and having all sons made it more difficult for him."

Coming from a poor background, money is important to him as a measure of success. It has also given him the freedom to do the things he enjoys. His 2.5 per cent stake in Pentos is worth £2.74 million. In addition to a flat in Clarence Terrace, just off Regent's Park, he has a magnificent, thatched house in the Cotswolds with sweeping lawns, tennis court and a large pond which is home to 50 ducks. He spends weekends here walking his three dogs, playing tennis and entertaining. He is driven around in a blueBentley Continental convertible.

Maher admits to being extremely pernickety. "I'm very concerned about detail. I can't see a letter from anyone without correcting it for grammar and spelling." He has been known to check colleagues' letters before they are sent. It is a trait that others find irritating. He has a habit of popping into Dillons to check that all is in order. "I have the knack of finding the one thing that's wrong in a bookshop," he says. "I almost want to find things wrong because if you find something wrong you can put it right."

ALAN WELLER



The thinkers: Terry Maher, bête noir of the book trade, in a rare moment of relaxation with his wife Barbara at their London home

'I do have a temper occasionally and I can get irritated. I don't like people making mistakes and I can't stand people defending the indefensible. I lead a very full life and I like being busy all the time.'

Fifth Avenue takes on the vets

CAPITAL —CITY—

PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE cream of New York retailing has spent most of the past year watching powerless as a loophole in the law has allowed the most expensive pavement in the city to slowly grow into a bazaar of street traders.

For years the world's top names — Chanel, Cartier, Gucci, Saks, Tiffany, Bergdorf Goodman — have kept general vendors off the pavements of Fifth Avenue between 34th and 56th.

Their legal crackdown, which worked effectively for four years to 1989, was largely based on arguments citing pavement congestion. However, others say it was irritating for the store managers to see traders sell counterfeit watches, T-shirts and handbags at a fraction of the price charged for the originals just yards away.

But in April the floodgates were opened when a disabled Vietnam veteran won the right in court to an automatic licence enabling all disabled veterans to sell products on the street.

In his summing up, the judge said he thought there were so few Vietnam veterans that the arguments of congestion by the 900-member Fifth Avenue Association did not hold. Hardly had his judgment been handed down, when the number of unlicensed general vendors soared from nil to more than 50 in eight months.

No longer did street traders need to bother with obtaining a licence for themselves, all they had to do was rent a vet. They toured the New York shelters for Vietnam veterans disabled during the war and paid them $50 a day to stand on the pitch selling, among other things, Cartier watches for $20, and T-shirts emblazoned with Chanel or the Hard Rock Café for $10 each.



Exclusive: Fifth Avenue

This freed the vendors from the irritation of either gaining a licence or working from a suitcase for maximum mobility. Until recently, the Fifth Avenue Association had only one weapon — to obtain court orders to confiscate the counterfeit merchandise, a long and inexact process often ending in vendors swapping products to confuse the paperwork issued by the courts.

And so the pavements of Fifth Avenue bustled with not only the loud cries of the street trader, but also of other entertainment activities attracted by the crowds. For an avenue whose very existence depends on a constant flow of free spending wealthy tourists, there was a serious danger of the tone going downhill fast.

But then the Avenue Association conducted a survey watching seven vets during one typical day and estimating their takings. The lowest came out at $565 and the highest $1,780. The average, explained Mr Tom Cusick, President of the Fifth Avenue Association, was $1,000.

The arithmetic is not complicated. Each week the 52 traders take on average $360,000 to $400,000 in cash. But New York's equivalent of VAT at 8.25 per cent means the tax man should be paid a weekly $30,000.

And the authorities are beginning to ask for some of their money, placing the disabled vets in an embarrassing position. On $1,000 worth of sales, the tax man wants $82.50, and so from being $50 a day up, the disabled Vet now faces being $32.50 adrift.

Meanwhile, the association has had another success. The city's landmarks preservation committee vetoed a plan by one Mohammed Ibrahim Mohmand of Flushing, New York state, to erect a nine-foot news stand on 52nd Street outside Cartier's.

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WEEKEND
MONEY
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9 1991

SUMMARY

Full bid is launched for Thames

A *FULL bid* has been launched for Thames TV by Thorn EMI, the electronics and music publishing group, valuing the company at up to £148.9 million.

The board of Thames, London's weekday independent television contractor, has recommended, with Thorn's support, that shareholders *should reject the bid.* Thorn says it is keen to keep the Thames stock exchange quote.

Thorn has agreed to buy the 27.8 *per cent shareholding of* BET, the stricken industrial services group, to add to its matching holding ..... Page 27

Maher's empire



Terry Maher, campaigner for the abolition of the net book agreement, admits to Gillian Bowditch that he enjoys putting things right so much that he almost wants to find faults *during visits to Dillons, the* flagship of his Pentos retailing group ..... Page 37

Airline package

A package to help European airlines through difficulties caused by the Gulf war has been promised by Sir Leon Brittan, the competition *commissioner* ..... Page 27

Dollar rises

The dollar rose clear of its all-time low against the mark after concerted intervention by central banks. European banks joined in for the third day this week ..... Page 28

Merger hike

Some investors face higher charges after the proposed amalgamation of the James Capel and Wardley unit trust groups. But the new head of the merged operation argues that others should gain from the deal ..... Page 32

Renovation trap

First-time buyers are in danger of falling into a new *renovation grants trap. Many* will not qualify for grants because they earn too much, but will be unable to take out a bank *loan* because they own too little equity in their homes ..... Page 33

Your letters



The reasons used by banks to justify credit card charges make one reader see red. Another maintains banks have only themselves to blame because they spent years publicising the advantages of 56 days' free interest. A third reader pleads for tax relief for elderly couples who have to pay expensive nursing home fees ..... Page 35

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Deep freeze
"Headlines that talk of a white-collar recession, or a southern recession, are as dated as the government's earlier hope that the downturn would be short and shallow. Recession will soon be too mild a term for an economic freeze that is nasty, brutish and, most probably, long."
David Smith in The Sunday Times tomorrow.
D 5
★★★★★★

William Kay recalls an historic moment in Britain's monetary evolution

Living with the decimal revolution



Twenty years ago next Friday, on February 15, 1971, Britain fell in with most of the rest of the world and converted its currency to the decimal format.

Dragging the nation so brusquely into the 20th century was no easy matter. The Treasury estimates that the changeover cost the country between £100 million and £150 million.

The government-funded Decimal Currency Board invested in a publicity campaign reminiscent of a mixture of a privatisation issue and last year's conversion of London's 01 telephone code numbers to 071 and 081. Charts appeared in all the newspapers, so that people could memorise the fact that 8s 5d was 42p.

Britain's banks were closed on the Thursday and Friday before decimalisation to give them time to prepare for D-Day, as it was known, the following Monday. From that morning, all cheques had to be written in decimal form, with no room for decimal halfpennies. But both types of currency were acceptable in shops for 18 months.

The table shows a reassuring number of prices that have not gone up quite as much as that. The ones that have — mainly theatre tickets, train fares, hotel prices, magazines — have in common a *high labour content. This reflects* average earnings, which have risen by more than ten times over the same period, suggesting that most people are considerably better off.

Petrol, has risen by only 5.7 times, despite uncertainties caused by the Gulf war. But the real winners have been electronic gadgets sold by Dixons and others. Mass production and cheap Asian labour have virtually shrugged off two decades of inflation, and built in technical improvements at the same time.

Inflation was the major point of disagreement between the political parties when decimalisation was being debated. The simplification was broadly accepted as a benefit, and Britain was beginning to recognise that harmonisation with the European Community would be a help when applying for membership.

The great fear was that prices *would rise more rapidly if there* were only 100 pence to the pound instead of 240. The most popular alternative was to abolish the pound and make our staple currency unit equal to 50p, or the old ten shillings. If this course had been adopted the 120 old pennies in ten shillings would have converted tidily into 100 decimal pence.

Critics argued that turning the 240 pennies in the pound into 100 pence gave shops a heaven-sent opportunity to charge higher prices, even though the authorities illogically continued with the non-decimal halfpenny.

TWENTY YEARS OF DECIMAL STERLING

	Price February 71	Price February 91		Price February 71	Price February 91
Teachers whisky	£2.60 (70cl)	£9.69 (75cl)	Prime back tendersweet bacon 1lb	19p	£2.88
Sainsbury's pork sausages 1lb	23p	£1.09	Hotel (Grosvenor House) double room	£20	£225
Butter, Dutch unsalted	21p (8oz)	71p (250g)	Double gin and tonic	30p	£4
Sainsbury's granulated sugar	8p (2lb)	66p (1kg)	Bottle of beer	8p	£2.10
Sainsbury's raspberry jam 1lb	10p	63p	British Rail:		
Marmite 4oz	15p	79p	London-Brighton (single)*	85p	£8.90
Sainsbury's Red Label tea 4oz	7p	43p	London-Edinburgh (single)*	£5.70	£53
Sainsbury's tomato ketchup	6.5p	39p	Theatre tickets†	£2	£25
McDougalls self-raising flour	11p (1lb)	33p (500g)	Sanyo television (Dixons)	£89.50 10"	£179.99 14"
Sainsbury's baked beans	5p (1lb)	26p (447g)	Kodak 35mm film (36 exposures) (Dixons)	£1.95	£4.00
Sainsbury's frozen peas 1lb	13p	59p	Petrol: 1 gallon, 4-star	35p	£1.99
Sainsbury's cornflakes 1lb	11p	82p	The Times	5p	35p
Loaf	9p (28oz)	47p (800g)	Radio Times	5p	50p
Large eggs 1 doz	12.5p	£1.38	Women's Own	5p	43p

†Front dress circle at Palace Theatre, London - showing Danny La Rue in 1971, Les Miserables today. *Standard class fare.

The late Iain Macleod, the Conservative Shadow Chancellor, led a spirited crusade, declaring himself "an unrepentant ten-bobber". But James Callaghan, the Labour Chancellor responsible for the Decimal Currency Act of 1969, chose the pound-based system. It had the virtue of simplicity, but he *also wanted to retain the pound's* primacy as the world's heaviest major currency. Had we chosen to base on ten shillings, the new unit — some wanted to call it the Churchill, others the Royal — would by now be worth less than one US dollar.

Several minor currencies, such as the Saudi Riyal, have now surpassed the pound's value and *in 1985 sterling briefly slipped* below parity with the dollar, even without decimalisation.

But the opposition's inflation fears were at best unproven, and possibly groundless. In the year before decimalisation, the Retail Prices Index rose 8.6 per cent, but only by 8 per cent the year after. It may be that shopkeepers were inhibited by the public's greater awareness of the threat of higher prices, and no-one wanted to be accused of profiteering.

At any rate, the position was reversed in the next two years. Prices rose by 16.6 per cent in the two years after decimalisation, compared with only 13.9 per cent in the two years before February 1971.

The three-year comparison is even more savage: a 21 per cent price rise between February 1968 and 1971, but no less than 31.9 per *cent between February 1971 and* 1974. However, by then the comparisons were heavily distorted by other factors: Chancellor Anthony (now Lord) Barber's credit-led boom of 1971, the oil price shock of 1973, and the industrial unrest leading to the February 1974 general election.

Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, chairman of Allied-Lyons, the Ind Coope and J Lyons food and drink group, said: "It seems like yesterday. For us, with thousands of outlets, we had to mount one of the biggest educational exercises I *can remember. I'm quite sure* decimalisation was the most inflationary thing that happened in that decade."

It hardly seems to have been regarded as a triumph by those in power at the time. Harold Wilson fails to discuss the subject at all in his 790-page book on his years as prime minister. And Lord Callaghan, now 78, said: "I think I've *forgotten it all. I'm sorry, I can't* help very much."

Charles Goodhart was adviser to the Bank of England on monetary policy at the time, and has become professor of banking and finance at the London School of Economics. He said: "There were bound to be some short-term transitional costs. But look at the time it has saved for children — it was awful having to learn how to count in pounds shillings and pence. I suppose shops did round up prices more than otherwise, but I don't know that it made a lot of *difference.*"

Some still feel that the anguish of learning a more complicated system would be good for people.

As recently as 1987, Mr William Summers wrote to the *Financial Times*: "In my view, decimalisation is very detrimental to mental arithmetic, because people are only used to dividing and multiplying by 10s, 100s etc, but of course, *if as a schoolchild you had* had to master the Imperial system plus pounds shillings and pence, you are numerately agile for life. For me, the quicker Napoleon's wretched system is banished the better."

Marching towards a pocketful of £5 bits

OUR coinage has undergone more changes in the run-up to decimalisation and since than in any comparable period in history. Arguably, this has played a considerable part in the hostility which many feel towards the present *system* (William Kay writes).

The process began in 1969, when the 50p piece was introduced to soften people up for the new money *From* February 15, 1971, the banks began issuing decimal halfpennies, pennies and twopenny pieces. The two-shilling piece had been created *in the* last century as part of an aborted move towards decimalisation.

The pre-decimal penny, worth 0.4p, vanished on August 31, 1971, along with the 12-sided threepenny bit. However, there was a *vociferous campaign* to retain the pre-decimal sixpence, worth 2.5p, as part of the fight against inflation. But shopkeepers hated the tanner, and it was dropped in June 1980. There was another fight to retain the decimal halfpenny, which many saw as hedge against inflation. But it went in 1984.

The average person in a 1974 *Which? survey* was carrying 11.5 coins with a total value of 89p. People had by then begun to feel the lack of a coin between 10p and 50p. But it was *not until June* 1982 that the 20p coin was introduced.

However, we had less than a year to enjoy the lighter load. The following April the government ushered in the £1 coin. The tinkering continues. Last month *the old shilling-sized 5p* was demonetised in favour of a smaller version, and a lighter 10p is on the drawing board. But the give-away clue to the next big move is the latest version of the £5 note, which bears the same similarity to a soap coupon as the final £1 note. The £5 coin, possibly supplemented by a £2 coin, cannot be far away.

☐ There was nothing to stop any retailer from continuing to count in old currency — as the King's Head public house in north London proves to this day. The bar staff, some of whom were not even born in February 1971, rattle *up the cost of a round on a* mechanical till that was fashioned in 1907. Their task is made easier because they do not have to bother about pre-decimal pennies. Bar prices rise in 5p stages, equivalent to the old shilling.

Midland's flexible friends to carry annual charge

By Sara Mcconnell

MIDLAND bank will tell its 3½ million Access and Visa card holders on Monday that they will be charged £10 a year for the use of each card from April 10.

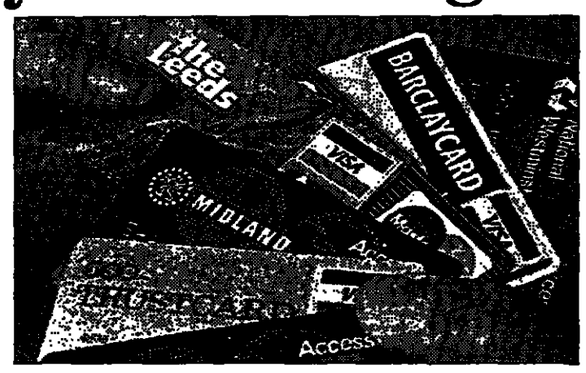
NatWest and TSB will be the only leading clearing banks not to charge annual fees for credit cards, but both say they will be influenced by Midland's decision. Most, if not all card providers, are widely expected to introduce charges soon. Lloyds and Barclays led the way when they imposed charges last year.

The monthly rate on Midland's Access and Visa accounts will be cut from 2.35 per cent to 2 per cent a month for holders who do not pay off their balances in full every month. This brings the APR on both cards down from 32.1 per cent to 28.5 per cent. The monthly rate will be the same as that of Lloyds, which said last week that it was raising rates from March 1.

Midland customers with both Access and Visa cards will have to pay £10 a year for each card unless they opt for a combined Visa and Access account. Customers will then keep both cards, but pay one *£10 fee and make one single* payment. Statements will detail the transactions of both cards separately.

Those not paying off their balance in full will have interest calculated from the transaction date rather than the date of the statement. This means people will start paying interest three days after they have made a purchase instead of three weeks later when they get their statement.

Job cuts, page 27



Card fees: Midland is the latest to charge for plastic

Fimbra seeks review

By Jon Ashworth

FIMBRA, the City regulator, has denied it is on the brink of financial collapse. But it has given warning that rising costs and falling membership have placed a strain on resources, and wants an urgent review of Britain's regulatory structure.

Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, which is responsible for Britain's 7,000 independent brokers, laid off a fifth of its workforce this week and has written to the government giving warning that it faces insolvency. But it claims the remarks, made in a letter to John Redwood, the consumer affairs minister, have been taken out of context.

Sir Gordon Downey, the chairman of Fimbra, said yesterday that action was being taken to contain costs. He denied reports that Fimbra was insolvent, but confirmed that he is in consultation with the trade department and the Securities and Investments Board.

He added: "There has always been concern about Fimbra's financial viability; it has always had a deficiency in reserves since the outset caused largely because no government assistance was given with initial set-up costs." He added that insolvency was "not a probability", should remedial steps be taken.

Sir Gordon said he was seeking a long-term solution to Fimbra's funding problems, but did not elaborate. He hinted that a fundamental review of the regime for investor protection would be necessary to achieve such an aim. He said: "To achieve our objectives will almost certainly require a reorganisation of the present regulatory boundaries."

The SIB said it supported Fimbra's plans and will liaise with the regulator to ensure investor protection is maintained.

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